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QUICKER COMPENSATION PLAN AGREED BY OPERATOR

Good news at last for struggling commuters

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THE flawed system denying hundreds of long-suffering rail commuters payouts for delayed and poor services is being overhauled.

From the summer, passengers held up by 30 minutes or more on account of Southeastern can claim compensation on an individual case basis.

Currently, payouts are based on the average annual performance and punctuality of the operator, meaning despite hundreds of complaints for poor standards last year, few passengers received compensation.

Season ticket holders would have been entitled to a five per cent reduction in fares had Southeastern failed to run 82 per cent of its trains on time in the last year.

But the operator managed to scrape

through with just 82.04 per cent.

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark floated the idea of a 'delay-repay' scheme to the operator's managing director, Charles Horton, in January after appalling service during the winter, when hundreds of travellers were left stranded on platforms and trains with little or no information.

It will mean passengers will almost immediately be compensated when they experience delays of half an hour or more.

"I'm delighted they are going ahead with it," said Mr Clark. "It's a fairer system and makes Southeastern much more accountable."

"The old compensation system, based on the average performance across all of Southeastern's rail services, was fundamentally flawed and frustrating for passengers. If someone has experienced bad service they should be able to get immediate and automatic compensation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



PLATFORM SOULS: Southeastern passengers will soon be able to claim compensation on an individual case basis

'SpongeBob' quips cost AXA PPP dear

A 31-YEAR-old worker dubbed 'SpongeBob SquarePants' by cruel staff at AXA PPP has been awarded £140,000 at an industrial tribunal.

Brazilian Licia Faithful told the tribunal she had suffered 18 months of abuse at the healthcare firm in the town.

Bosses say new systems are now in place to prevent any repeat.

FULL STORY - PAGE 3

Hero's return from Japan earthquake

A BRAVE firefighter who spent the week after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami sifting through the wreckage in a desperate bid for survivors, has spoken of the horror – and the dignity – he saw there.

Station manager John Mazzei, 46, from Pembury, was operations commander of Kent's specialist search and rescue team.

FULL STORY - PAGE 4

Delight for Lib Dems in poll win

THE Lib Dems have turned their sights on success in the upcoming local elections after a shock-win in the Pembury by-election.

They captured the former Tory stronghold with a 118-vote majority.

Conservatives said "obviously we were surprised".

FULL STORY - PAGE 5

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Digging deep to help hospice

HEIR to Lullingstone Castle and renowned plant-hunter Tom Hart-Dyke will be giving a guided tour of his world garden as part of a charity's annual fund-raiser.

Chelsea Flower Show gold medal-winner Roger Platts will also be showing off his garden and nursery as part of Pembury-based Hospice in Weald's Open Gardens season this summer.

Mr Hart-Dyke had been travelling the world collecting plants when he was kidnapped in the Panamanian jungle on a horticultural expedition in 2000. He thought up the idea for his famous World Garden after his captors threatened him with death.

Since it was created in 2005, his garden has grown year on year with rare and important plants added to the collection. Horticultural delights to be seen, touched and smelt include dog-poo plant (*Hoodia gordonii*); the world's most dangerous plant, the Queensland stinger (*Dendrocnide moroides*); and the hottest chilli – Dorset naga.

He said: "This is something different for us, we've never done it before and we are excited to be part of the scheme and it all comes down to the fact it's for a good cause. The visit will be at



GUIDED TOUR: Roger Platts' garden

the time of year the garden is looking its best and we want to share that with people and get them fired up about plants."

Mr Hart-Dyke's garden at Lullingstone, near Sevenoaks, will be open to between 80 and 85 guests on July 12. Mr Platts' garden, Leydens, near Edenbridge, will be open to a maximum of 100 people on July 9. Features include a newly created kitchen garden, pergolas, an oak-framed summerhouse and a small, natural-style pond.

The planting includes a wide range of trees, shrubs and perennials, as well as a summer border on the edge of a wild meadow. Garden designer and creator of the winner in the People's Choice category at last year's Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Platts will be there to talk to guests and answer questions.

He said: "I'm delighted to open my garden in support of Hospice in the Weald. This wonderful, caring charity is so important."

More than 20 gardens across west Kent and East Sussex are taking part in the scheme, which runs between May and August.

Hospice in the Weald said as one of its most successful fund-raisers, Open Gardens regularly bring in about £20,000 to help provide care for patients with life-limiting illnesses.

The charity's Amy Prime said: "We are thrilled that Roger and Tom have agreed to open their gardens for us and grateful for their support. We have lots of beautiful gardens for people to visit this year."

Places to see the World Garden and Mr Platts' garden must be booked in advance. For more information about Open Gardens visit www.hospicetheweald.org.uk or contact Ms Prime on 01892 820530.

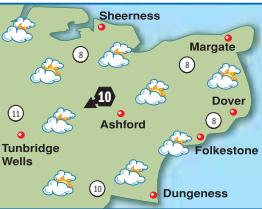


TREE-MENDOUS: Gardener Tom Hart-Dyke

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Monrise	1.55am	Moonset	9.49am	6.18pm to 6.43am

High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	03.23 6.0 15.52 5.7	05.30 5.5 18.03 5.3
Margate	04.21 4.4 16.52 4.1	06.28 4.1 19.00 3.9
St Mary's	09.18 4.5 21.53 4.5	11.33 4.2 –

Around Britain

	°C	°F		°C	°F		°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy 7	45	Edinburgh	cloudy 8	46	Newcastle	cloudy 7	45
Belfast	cloudy 9	48	Glasgow	fair	9	Norwich	fair	7
B'ham	cloudy 10	50	Isle of Man	fair	9	Oxford	cloudy 11	52
B'Mouth	cloudy 13	55	Leeds	cloudy 6	43	Southsea	cloudy 12	54
Bristol	cloudy 11	52	London	cloudy 12	54	S'hampton	cloudy 12	54
Cardiff	cloudy 13	55	Liverpool	cloudy 10	50	Southport	fair	9
Cork	cloudy 10	50	Manchester	cloudy 9	48	Swansea	cloudy 11	52

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Compensation scheme back on the rails

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The announcement of the new system came as Southeastern was granted a two-year extension on its contract. Kent MPs fighting for improved services had questioned whether a new franchise agreement should be agreed by Government following the poor service and fare increases of 13 per cent on some routes.

North Thanet MP Roger Gale and Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless both said they would oppose any extension of the agreement.

But despite a poor winter service, Southeastern met performance standards and was granted an extension, although in 2014 the Government can look to replace the operator.

Mr Clark said he could understand people's concerns about a two-year extension to the franchise.

However, there is going to be a much longer-term franchise let from 2014," he said.

"To get a different company in to cover an interim period of just 24 months would be very difficult.

The rail minister, Theresa Villiers, has assured me the new contract will put customer service at the forefront and performance targets will be much tougher."

Tunde Olatunji, Kent manager for rail watchdog Passenger Focus, said the extension would be received with mixed feelings by those who have seen a deterioration in performance, sharp fare increases and little or no compensation. But he stressed the "silver lining" was the delay-repay scheme which would entitle passengers to compensation.

sation.

"This is something we argued for in the original contract so are pleased that it has finally been accepted," he said.

"It should mean passengers will be able to apply for compensation immediately, rather than having to wait to see whether Southeastern's year performance has breached the threshold for awarding compensation."

Southeastern MD Mr Horton said the focus was to improve services for customers.

He added he was pleased the franchise would continue until March, 2014.

"From this summer we will move to the delay-repay scheme, meaning any passenger delayed by 30 minutes or more can claim compensation," he said.

"This will be welcomed by passengers and rail user groups."

Court rejects third appeal by road-rage killer Noye

By **MARIKE COX**

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A BIOGRAPHER of M25 'road-rage' killer Kenneth Noye says he expects the crook to already be plotting another appeal – despite his latest effort being rejected.

Noye, 63, who lived in West Kingsdown, was found guilty of stabbing Stephen Cameron on the slip-road of the motorway, near Swanley, in front of his victim's terrified 17-year-old fiancée, in 1996.

The case became one of Britain's most notorious, but after fleeing to Spain and a massive police manhunt, Noye was eventually tracked down and arrested.

He was jailed for life in 2000, with a ruling to serve a minimum of 16 years. Noye has maintained he acted in self-defence and has so far served 12 years.

On Tuesday, after two failed appeals in 2001 and 2004, three judges at London's Court of Appeal rejected a new bid to have his murder conviction overturned.

But Mr Cameron's family say they now fear Noye will turn to the European courts in a bid to try and slash his sentence.

Mr Cameron's parents, Toni and Ken Cameron, said each appeal "rips our guts out" but they were pleased with this week's

decision. His mother said: "I think about Stephen every day and all the things we are missing."

"We didn't realise just what a happy family we were before we lost him."

This week's hearing followed a call by the Criminal Cases Review Commission in October, 2010, to refer the case to the Court of Appeal, stating two key witnesses in Noye's original trial were "so discredited" the conviction should be quashed.

But appeal judges said this week "there was no doubt that Mr Cameron was deliberately stabbed by the appellant".

True-crime author Wensley Clarkson, who penned Kenny Noye: Public Enemy No1, said Noye was a successful career criminal whose temper ended up getting him into trouble.

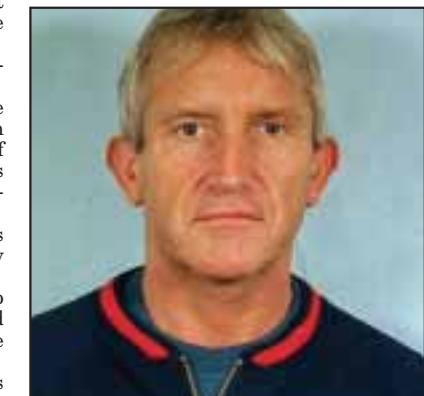
Mr Clarkson told us: "He still proclaims his innocence and won't just sit there and do nothing about it."

"That has become his full-time job in prison. He's very active and a workaholic. He's got enterprises on the outside, which people are running for him, and he wants to get out."

"He's been working hard on this and tried different versions of appeal – he's not just sitting in prison doing nothing."

Noye is no stranger to jail. He served eight years for his part in the 1983 Brink's-Mat robbery.

He had only been out for two years when he killed Mr Cameron. The Brink's-Mat crime



BEHIND BARS: Murderer Kenneth Noye

saw gold bullion worth £26 million stolen from a warehouse at Heathrow airport.

Noye was placed under surveillance and in January, 1985, killed policeman John Fordham after he discovered the officer in his garden. At the resulting trial, a jury found him not guilty on the grounds of self-defence.

In 1986 Noye was found guilty of conspiracy to handle the gold, fined £700,000 and sentenced to 14 years in prison. He was released in 1994 after eight years behind bars.

Actress plants castle's rose

OSCAR-winning actress Dame Judi Dench was blooming with pride on Tuesday after unveiling a specially-bred rose.

The star of stage and screen unveiled the Hever Castle Rose, created by regarded rose grower, the late Colin Homer.

The rose, which features velvety deep-red blooms offset by golden stamens, was planted by the actress close to the castle moat setting it apart from the thousands of rose bushes in the gardens.

Dame Judi, 76, who plays M in the James Bond movies, told us: "M would like it at Hever, but she would probably want to sit behind one of the little windows in the castle with a telescope pointing out.

"I don't get to make any decisions regarding the filming but I will do my best to get the Bond people to come to Hever and use it as a location."



PICTURES: PAUL JEFFREY

Quake rescuer tells of dignity amidst horror

By MARLIKE COX

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A BRAVE firefighter who spent the week after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami sifting through the wreckage in a desperate bid for survivors, has spoken of the horror – and the dignity – he saw there.

Station manager John Mazzei, 46, from Pembury, was operations commander of Kent's specialist search and rescue team, which jetted into the crisis-hit country.

They spent days in freezing temperatures hunting for survivors in Ofunato and Kamaishi, where tens of thousands of people are missing, while living in fear of the threat of a nuclear catastrophe at the Fukushima power station.

Last Sunday he returned to the UK after freezing weather put paid to the expedition.

Speaking to this newspaper this week, Mr Mazzei said: "The area on the outskirts was more or less untouched, but once we got to where the tsunami hit, just about everything was destroyed."

"There were some people at the remains of their houses trying to pick up family mementoes; they looked shocked and traumatised."

Mr Mazzei is no stranger to working in disaster zones. Last year he travelled to Haiti after it was hit by an earthquake.

He said: "In Haiti there were many bodies on the streets waiting for collection, but in Japan bodies were drawn out to sea by the tsunami and were washing up on the coast."

Asked what his most difficult moment was, the father-of-four said: "I was working with one of the teams from Mid West Wales in Kamaishi.

"A local fire officer was standing outside what was left of his house and the Mid West Wales team went in and identified four mem-



TOUGH JOB: The Kent Search and Rescue team were shocked by the scale of the devastation left by the tsunami

bers of his family who had died. When the fire officer received the news he simply bowed and thanked the team for the information. He maintained his composure."

Mr Mazzei said the Japanese were dignified and full of hope, even going so far as to bring food to the rescue teams.

"Even though we as a team are self-sufficient, people were insisting on giving us food," he said. "It was quite clear it was not acceptable for us to turn it down."

Kent's team leader Alan Downes said the support from the Japanese was "humbling".

"We were faced with total devastation in Ofunato and yet, despite the fact that most of the community had lost everything, they were extremely supportive, expressing their extreme gratitude for our efforts, which was a very humbling experience," he said.

The death toll for the disaster has reached more than 18,000, with some 450,000 people left homeless.

Heavy snowfall and falling temperatures led the UK and US rescuers to announce the end of their mission as the window of opportunity of finding survivors closed.

International development minister Stephen O'Brien praised the Kent team for their courage and professionalism.

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WEST KENT Primary Care Trust will begin referring couples for IVF treatment from the start of next month.

Patients of the Medway and West Kent PCTs were denied a referral by their GP as NHS

managers tried to save money. But with the dawning of the new financial year on April 1, the block will be lifted.

A spokesman said: "We always said this would be a temporary position until the end of the financial year; there-

fore referrals will be made as normal from April 1.

"During this time there has been no blanket ban, and where there has been a compelling clinical need, patients have not missed out on treatment."

Bullied worker wins £140,000 from AXA PPP

A 31-YEAR-old worker dubbed 'SpongeBob SquarePants' by staff at AXA PPP has been awarded £140,000 at an industrial tribunal.

Licia Faithful told the tribunal she had suffered 18 months of abuse at the health-care firm in Tunbridge Wells.

Bosses say new systems are now in place to prevent any repeat of the incident.

The Brazilian was mocked for her accent and left 'an emotional wreck' by the ordeal.

She also said she was branded 'lazy' and overlooked for rewards.

Mrs Faithful started working at the Tunbridge Wells office in 2006, but by 2008 she had been forced to resign, citing post-traumatic stress, and depression. The mother-of-one blames it all on constant bullying.

Now AXA PPP has paid a hefty price.

The tribunal found in favour of Mrs Faithful when they met in Ashford this week.

Managers were found responsible for four breaches of employment law and ordered to pay £141,990 for racial discrimination, unfair dismissal and personal injury.

Judge Gill Sage said Mrs Faithful had endured "the most serious case of discrimination" and there had been a "manifest failure" at all levels at AXA to protect Mrs Faithful from discrimination.

A statement issued by the company said: "Treating our employees fairly is very important to us and we work hard to create a positive, supportive workplace culture where employees enjoy their working environment."

"We are disappointed with the employment tribunal's decision in this case, which is in respect of events that occurred over three years ago."

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Hospital 'blessed' as bishop visits on diocese tour

THE Bishop of Rochester has visited a private Christian hospital as part of a tour of his new diocese.

Burrswood Hospital, set in more than 200 acres of woodland, gardens, lakes and farmland in Groombridge, near Tunbridge Wells, specialises in post-surgical care, rehabilitation, palliative and terminal care.

Bishop James met with staff, patients and guests.

He said: "It is such an interesting model – bringing together healthcare with prayer. There is obviously an important

but not pushed spirituality here."

Hospital Reverend Christine Garrard added: "We all felt greatly blessed and thankful for his time with us."

Bishop James was installed in December last year, following his role as Bishop of Lynn in Norfolk.

He said: "I am enjoying the diversity that my new diocese offers, from south London to the coast. Currently I am listening, learning and looking as I settle into this new role."

Dr Gareth Tuckwell said: "We hope to work closely with the Bishop and see him regularly at Burrswood. We also discussed our plans as we work towards our centenary in 2012."

Burrswood was established in 1948 by Dorothy Kerin, becoming a registered charity after her death in 1963.

The hospital said it was unique in healthcare in the UK because it combines medical and nursing care with the Christian ministry.



Former nurse sets up group to offer relief from disease

By JENNA PUDELEK

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A RHEUMATOID arthritis sufferer has spoken about the debilitating disease and how setting up a local support group has helped relieve the isolation she felt.

Vera Coombs, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, was diagnosed with the auto-immune disease in 2001, after she first began to feel pain in her toe. Within 18 months, it had spread to every joint in her body, forcing her to give up her nursing career.

Mrs Coombs, now 62, believes her rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was triggered by the Hepatitis B vaccination.

In spring 2009, she became joint co-ordinator of the Pembury and Tunbridge Wells National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) group, along with fellow sufferer Tony Carter.

She said: "People don't realise how severe it can be. It can start at a very young age and affect anybody. It is often confused with osteoarthritis, which is a more common wear-and-tear condition."



SUPPORT: Vera Coombs and Tony Carter, of the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society

The initial meeting to discuss setting up the group, organised by the rheumatology department at Pembury Hospital and NRAS, attracted more than 100 people.

It aims to offer support to RA sufferers and their carers living in west Kent and north East Sussex, and supply information about the condition.

The local group meets monthly at Langton Village Hall and Mrs Coombs said she had found being involved beneficial.

"The group meetings aim to help people with RA learn more about managing their disease and how to get the best from the local rheumatology services," she said.

Isolating

"It is an ideal opportunity to meet and learn from others with the disease. RA can be very isolating as it is so misunderstood.

"I would really encourage people to come along to a meeting."

From a low attendance of about 12, the monthly meetings now attract up to 30 people, and speakers have ranged from a tai chi expert to Ailsa Bosworth, the NRAS chief executive, and healthcare professionals from the rheumatology department.

There is currently no cure for RA, and although there are treatments available, it can cause severe disability and affect someone's ability to carry out everyday tasks.

The ongoing cost to the NHS of treating RA is £2.5 billion a year.

It is an auto-immune disease in which the body's white cells attack joints and muscles causing inflammation, stiffness and pain.

About 680,000 people in the UK have the disease, with 26,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Approximately 12,000 children have the juvenile form, JIA. The majority of sufferers, some 80 per cent, are women.

Mrs Coombs urged other sufferers to join the support group. At the next meeting on March 24, the speaker will be John Hunt, a professional photographer who suffers from RA but travels the world in his work.

Call Vera Coombs on 01892 534341 or email her at Verauk2002@yahoo.co.uk.



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CLASSY: Patrick Cameron demonstrates the Lady Gaga bow at K College

King of the Up shows how to make a Lady Gaga bow

THE man who introduced the 'up-do' to hairdressers around the world dazzled with his scissors in Tonbridge as he launched new salons at K College.

The New Zealand-born stylist Patrick Cameron has pioneered a new craze of glamorous styles involving rollers, hairspray, and plenty of back combing.

His popularity was clear when more than 200 hairdressers, hair students and tutors watched the 'King of the Up Do' at the Brook Street campus.

He demonstrated the 'Lady Gaga bow', as well as the perfect French pleat to the specially-invited audience.

Mandy Ellis, of Hair Gallery in Crowborough, said: "He is the icon for hair up, and this was inspirational to watch – you can see what he was doing with a flick of his hand. He is a genius."

Mr Cameron has performed before audiences of thousands – most notably in the Kremlin, with Russian President, Vladimir Putin's wife in the front row.

He told the audience: "I am passionate about my career in hairdressing and I am a huge supporter of education and training, so I love to get out to colleges to meet the hair stylists who are working in the business now, and those who are training."

Crosshead

A spokeswoman for the college said: "Some of the audience were old enough to remember the Sixties, when women used to spend Saturdays out shopping with their hair in curlers ready to be teased into huge beehives to go dancing that evening."

"Mr Cameron's styles for international catwalks and magazines have driven the new craze for the same glamour, as can be seen in city centres across the country now, where the same 'hair in rollers' look is back on Saturday afternoons."

Mr Cameron concluded: "Everyone studying hair at K College needs to learn all the basics, because the styles that you might think are out-dated will come back one day."

K College offers members of the public the chance to have their hair done at a fraction of the cost of most salons, so that students get the chance to practice.

K College was known as West Kent College, prior to its merger with South Kent College.



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Lib Dem election delight as mum Claire shocks Tories

By JENNA PUDELEK

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THE Liberal Democrats have turned their sights on success in the upcoming local elections after a shock win in the Pembury by-election.

Claire Brown, the latest addition to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, won the election in the Conservative stronghold with a 118-vote majority. Her win was met with disbelief in the Tory camp, with the party's candidate William Rutherford saying "obviously we were surprised".

The Conservatives must now be wondering how much damage has been done to their reputation locally during the rule of former council leader Roy Bullock and his hand-picked cabinet's handling of plans to redevelop town hall complex.

The previous councillor for Pembury, Mike Thompson, had resigned in protest at the way local Tories had treated Cllr Bullock, who was forced out of the leadership and then deselected as a candidate in his Lamberhurst and Goudhurst ward.

UK Independence Party candidate Victor Webb managed to claim 22 per cent of the vote, compared with just six per cent the last time he stood in 2008.

After the win last Thursday, Cllr David Neve, leader of the borough council's opposition Lib Dems, said: "Our focus will be to wrestle more seats from the Tories.

"We will be trying to win votes over the way they have upset people through their behaviour and actions. For example, saying nothing has been decided on the town hall when really they are pulling the wool over people's eyes."

The make-up of the council going into the May 5 elections is now seven Lib Dems to 40 Conservatives, after Marcella Callow, who was member for Brenchley and Horsmonden, resigned leaving a vacancy.

Mrs Brown, of the Glebe, said she was "absolutely shocked and delighted" to win.



WINNER: Lib Dem Cllr Claire Brown

Asked why she thought she won, she said: "Possibly because I was the only local representative and people are sending a message that they want someone who lives in the community to represent them. I'm a mum, with children who go to the local school, who lives in the community. We've been putting all our focus and energy on what we can do to improve Pembury."

Mrs Brown, 40, who has three children, will be somewhat of a rarity in the male-dominated council chamber.

"The councillors have all been really welcoming so I think it is about the common cause of making sure we do our best for the community," she said. "But it is nice to be able to represent a different dynamic."

She aims to hold a weekly clinic in the village hall to hear residents' concerns and said her first issue would be the potholes outside the village school. Meanwhile, Mr Rutherford, who came second with 460 votes, blamed a protest vote to Ukip over local politics for his party's loss.

He said: "Obviously we were surprised. The surprise is the Ukip vote, because the Lib Dems polled exactly the same percentage they always get, between 40 and 43 per cent.

"I think there was an unusually high vote for Ukip. It would have been an easy

THE RESULT

Pembury by-election

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

	Votes
Claire Brown (Lib Dem)	578
Robert Rutherford (Con)	460
Victor Webb (Ukip)	297
Spoilt papers – 11	
Turnout – 35.41 per cent	

Conservative hold again, but what we have is a big swing and protest vote by Conservative voters to Ukip. In the Kent County Council by-election in Tonbridge there wasn't any sign of Ukip strength, so I'm sure local politics has played some part in it."

The turnout was 34 per cent.

Mr Webb, who won 297 votes, said: "If we had more manpower we might have caused an upset. We just weren't able to get round to see people. It shocked them – and we'll shock them again."

He said Ukip had 10 candidates in the local elections and was hoping for its first seat on the council.

"It wasn't just a protest vote," he said. "People don't like the Coalition. Voters were shouting at the Tories at the polling station saying they would never vote for them again unless they gave a referendum on Europe."

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Pughsley's police role permanent

ALAN Pughsley has been appointed as Kent's new Deputy Chief Constable.

Mr Pughsley temporarily took over the role in January before being appointed permanent on March 18.

He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1984, leading on murder investigations, kidnap and contract killings, firearms and drugs crimes.

He also worked with Surrey Police as a detective superintendent before returning to the Met as borough commander in Lewisham.

A FORMER silk mill pond is to receive nearly £80,000 of improvements. Greatness Residents' Association has been leading moves to restore the pond, in Seal Road.

Sevenoaks District Council has stumped up £7,233 towards the improvements after residents applied for a £72,333 grant from the Cory Environmental Trust. The district council is planning to transfer ownership of the pond to Sevenoaks Town Council.

Six hurt in crash

SIX people were taken to hospital after a two-car collision on the A21 near Tunbridge Wells.

A Ford Focus and Mercedes were involved in the accident, at the North Farm roundabout at about 2.30pm on Monday. The six were taken to the Kent and Sussex Hospital. Their injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. The road was reopened at 4.45pm.

PENSHURST Place will host this year's Weald of Kent Craft Show. Taking place between April 30 and May 2, the show will feature handmade crafts, food and drink, live music, displays and a show garden. More than 250 craftspeople from across the UK will be taking part. A spokesman said: "They will bring the very best in handmade gifts and treats, with unusual wares you won't often find on the High Street."

Bullock breaks silence

FORMER council leader Roy Bullock has broken his silence over the allegations that have been levelled against him and are now subject to police investigation.

However, the member for Goudhurst and Lamberhurst has remained stubbornly tight-lipped about the nature of the claims.

He did, however, claim the allegations have come from a cabinet member on the council.

Police told this newspaper last week that a probe had been launched into the allegations, which relate to Cllr Bullock's time at the helm of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, but stressed there are currently no criminal investigations taking place.

Details of the allegations remain unclear, but it is believed they involve the ousted leader's relationship with developer John Laing.

In response, Cllr Bullock at first seemed to deny all knowledge of the allegations, saying: "I don't know anything about any investigations and therefore you should speak to the police about this."

When told the police had said they are investigating whether the allegations made against him have any foundation, he said: "Just to confirm, I have not seen any documentation that may have been submitted to the police – I believe by a cabinet member – and so have no idea of the content of such documentation."

Public sector property developer John Laing and the council are involved in a joint venture to redevelop the authority's assets as



FLASHBACK: Last week's front page story about the latest allegations

the Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company.

Cllr Bullock said he did not know what the allegations were and therefore could not defend himself against them.

His leadership ended last year after fellow Conservatives brought a motion of no confidence against him.

The Tory group went on to de-select Cllr Bullock as a candidate for the upcoming borough elections in May, although it would not prevent him standing as an independent. He was replaced as leader by Cllr Bob Atwood.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JOE BILL

'We wanted to tell story of Swan Lake in our own way'

Russian skating star tells how ballet came to the ice



Picture: DAVID WYATT

TCHAIKOVSKY'S world-famous Swan Lake ballet is returning to tour the UK once again, but this time it will be on ice.

The cast, made up of former Russian figure skaters, is put together by The Imperial Ice Stars company, which takes its theatrical show across the world.

With fans' favourite Swan Lake On Ice heading to the Assembly Theatre in Tunbridge Wells, I caught up with one of its stars, Olga Sharutenko.

The 33-year-old skater, who now lives in north Wales when she is not touring, has been performing theatre on ice since retiring from the sport 11 years ago.

She said: 'I started skating aged six, but lots of people said I wasn't a very good skater when I was young.'

'But I had a good determination, and when I was eight I went to a dance group and was partnered with a boy. We skated together for 15 years.'

'I wanted to prove to people that I could do it, and I won lots of medals and was in the national team and entered competitions.'

'I was preparing for the Olympic Games in 1998, but it didn't happen and that was the reason I finished my sports career.'

'Being able to perform for the audiences and not the judges is great. My medal is when the audience stands up at the end of the show. That is my

gold medal.'

The 24 skaters, who between them hold more than 250 competition medals, are on tour for long periods with their own maintenance staff, doctors and musical directors.

That is something Sharutenko has had to get used to.

'It is hard work – not the skating, because we enjoy what we do – but travelling the world and being pretty much away from home for 10 months in a year. It is difficult sometimes.'

The skater plays the White Swan in the story about a young princess who is cursed to be a swan for the rest of her life.

Bringing that traditional ballet to the ice is not easy, says Sharutenko.

'It is a beautiful story,' she said. 'The music is powerful and tells a story itself. We wanted to tell the story from the origins, where it was created by Tchaikovsky, and we brought it to the ice.'

Movements

'The movements of figure-skating are quite different from ballet and we start everything from scratch, to bring it to life and tell the story in our own way.'

'We spend about two months creating the movements, adding the difficult elements of figure skating.'

'It is not for the judges, it is not for the points, it is for the audience to come and enjoy the show. We have to make sure the guests understand the show from our movements.'

'In competitions, you have your rules and you have to perform within those rules, but here you can create anything you wish.'

The Imperial Ice Stars have performed to almost three million people across five continents and at some of the world's most prestigious venues since their formation six years ago.

The company will be travelling with the Swan Lake show for the second time, after their previous tour in 2006 earned outstanding reviews.

'When the company started, the show was due to change every year, but the amount of people who want to see it means that we tour with one show for two years,' said Sharutenko.

'We created Swan Lake before, but people wanted us to bring it back so we did.'

'We did not want to do it the same as before, so we re-created it and brought different things to it. It is even more beautiful this time round.'

'The group also sees changes every couple of years, to get new young talented skaters to bring ideas and skills.'

The Imperial Ice Stars also performed Sleeping Beauty in 2004 and Cinderella in 2009.

- *Swan Lake On Ice will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells from Tuesday to Saturday, April 12-16. For more information, visit www.imperialicestars.com or www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.*

- *WIN: See p9 for a chance to win tickets to the show.*

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Have a spring clean and help heart charity

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A CHARITY has urged people to have a seasonal clearout this spring and donate their unwanted household goods.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF), which has a furniture and electrical store in Tunbridge Wells, needs an array of good quality items, from sofas to sideboards and tables to televisions.

Smaller electrical items, such as kettles, microwaves, toasters, hair straighteners and irons are in demand at the town's store and all funds raised go towards fighting heart disease.

Area manager, Monica Michaleczuk, said: "We are urging people to think of us when having their annual spring clear-out."

"Whether you have a bed, coffee table, armchair or chest of drawers to donate, our free collection service provides a practical solution for unwanted items that will help save lives."

BHF stores offer a collection service that can now be booked online, making it easier to donate.

Since the Tunbridge Wells store opened, 417 free collections have been booked online, raising more than £50,040 for the heart charity.



FREE PICK-UP: The BHF will collect good quality items free of charge

The service promotes reuse and offers a green solution to disposing of unwanted household items.

Many retailers and councils charge to take away bulky household goods but if they are in good condition, the Tunbridge Wells store will arrange

this service free of charge. Call the store on 0844 248 9110 or book online at bhf.org.uk/collection.

 Find more news and sport updated www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk



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WIN tickets to Swan Lake on Ice

THE world's premiere theatrical ice skating company, The Imperial Ice Stars, come to Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre next month – and you could be there thanks to our great competition.

Archant KOS Media has teamed up with the theatre to give a pair of tickets to each of five lucky winners to watch the dynamic new interpretation of their award-winning masterpiece Swan Lake on Ice, as part of a two year, 22-country world tour.

The Imperial Ice Stars have received standing ovations from UK audiences on each of their previous three tours – Sleeping Beauty on Ice 2004, Swan Lake on Ice 2006, Cinderella on Ice 2008-09 – and earned outstanding reviews with their adrenaline-infused performances.

This production of Swan Lake on Ice, which is in the town from Tuesday to Saturday, April 12-16, features exhilarating new choreography and some of the world's most stylish dancing on ice from artistic director Tony Mercer, widely regarded as the world's leading creator of theatre on ice.

The 26 World, European and National Championship skaters, who between them hold more than 250 competition medals, take contemporary ice dance to a new level with their graceful feats – some of which are so complex they are yet to be named – in the intimate setting of a frozen theatre stage.

"Inspired by my research into Tchaikovsky's original score and intentions for the story, I wanted to create a more realistic interpretation of this much-loved tale and



transpose it onto ice, creating a new art form in the process – ice dance in a full theatrical setting," explains Tony Mercer. "I felt it was a natural fit, to have swans gliding on ice."

"With this production I've re-worked the choreography to incorporate more contemporary skating manoeuvres, and challenged our skaters to reach for new heights."

The costuming has also been refined for

this new production, with some dazzling and sophisticated designs from renowned costumier Albina Gabueva of Moscow's Stanislavsky Theatre, and made by the famous Bolshoi Ballet's costume cutters.

Swan Lake on Ice will be performed against lavish backdrops and scenery created by one of Australasia's leading scenic designers, Eamon D'Arcy. Together with Tchaikovsky's uplifting music, this innovative portrayal of the classic love story will take your breath away.

The Imperial Ice Stars have performed to almost three million people across five continents, at some of the world's most prestigious venues – London's Royal Albert Hall and Sadler's Wells, Singapore's Esplanade Theatre, Montreal's Place des Arts and Cape Town's Artscape, winning five-star praise from audiences and critics alike.

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Diary recorded

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE moving diaries of a nurse who treated soldiers after the bloody battles of the First World War are set to be auctioned.

Lucy Kate 'Kitty' Card, from Tunbridge Wells, cared for injured soldiers from the Battle of the Somme and worked in military hospitals in Le Havre, Calais, Rouen, and Etaples.

Her collection of war memorabilia, which includes letters of thanks from the servicemen she treated, and her pristine Red Cross uniform, will go under the hammer at auctioneers Dreweatts on Tuesday, March 29.

Nurse Card never married, and her collection was passed down through her family to her great niece, Joyce Salmon, who died recently. She left it to a neighbour in Tunbridge Wells, who has decided to sell it.

Militaria expert Malcolm Claridge, from the Bristol-based auctioneers, said: "It is a rare archive because it is so complete. It also contains letters from the boys she helped and from their families.

"We've estimated that the diaries will make between £600 and £800, but they could fetch twice as much."

The collection was amassed between 1914



and 1919 and also includes medals and sepia photographs. In total, it is expected to sell for between £1,500 and £2,000.

In her diary, Nurse Card makes the relentless horror of life in the trenches come alive, with moving and compassionate accounts of the soldiers she met and treated.

Extracts from her two pocket diaries, written in pencil between 1915 and 1916, include: "March 31, 1916 – Harris, a boy in the ward who has a self-inflicted wound, so is therefore a prisoner, gives a pint of blood to save the life of another patient, he's very sad after his op, but soon regains his spirits.

"July 3, 1916 – A day of days, full convoys in about five or six, about 1,000 passed through, men very cheerful, overflow slept on straw, did dressing by light of oil lamp till about 10, too late for supper.

"August 1, 1916 – On night duty tonight in the lines, many very ill, the whole night spent trying to ease their pains, two died within 10 mins of one another, oh! It's so sad.

"August 11, 1916 – Poor Walker has had his leg amputated.

"August 12, 1916 – Lcpl Walker died

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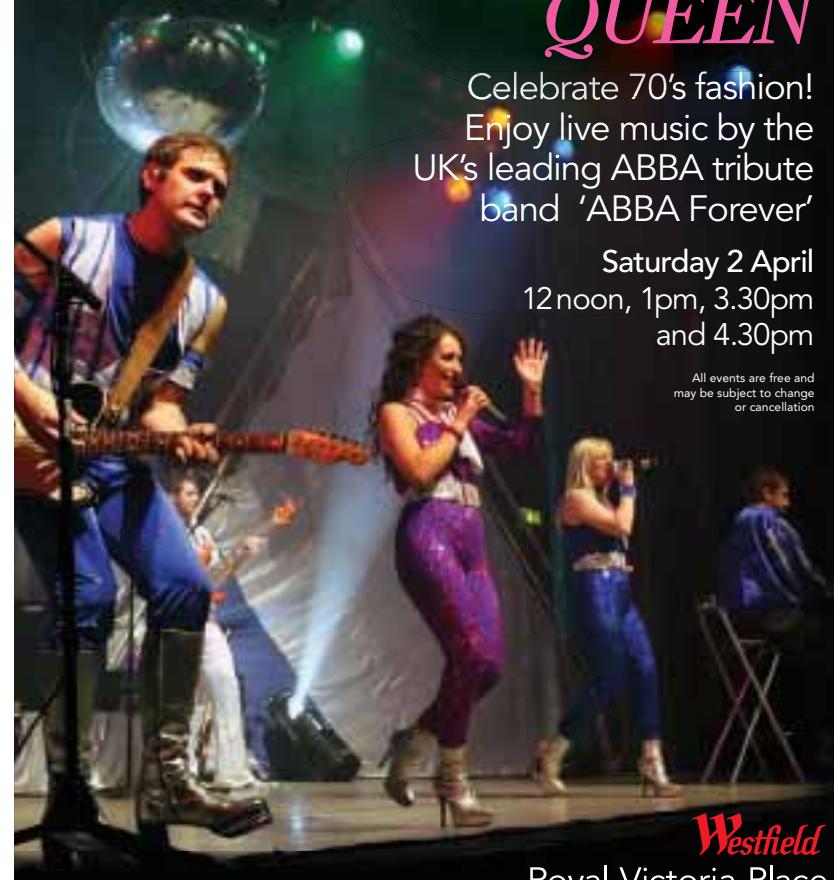
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horrors of war

tonight, very sorry indeed, he was a splendid fellow and so good.

"August 13, 1916 - Smith had his leg amputated, seems very ill.

"August 14, 1916 - Several very ill tonight, poor Smith died just before we came on duty, Foster also died today, oh it is so sad, he was so patient, had his leg amputated."

Mr Claridge said: "Her five medals include the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class silver badge in its original Garrard & Co case. She was also mentioned in despatches in December, 1918."

Nurse Card, who was born in 1881, trained as a teacher before volunteering as an assistant Red Cross nurse in 1914. She was posted to Le Havre in Northern France and ended the Great War at the British military hospital in Calais.

After the war she returned to Tunbridge Wells, where she became headteacher at St Luke's School in 1925.

During the Second World War, Nurse Card was in charge of anti-gas warfare training at the Kent and Sussex Hospital.



MEDICAL TEAM: Nurse Card is on the far left behind the wounded soldiers. Left is her Red Cross uniform and two of her diaries

Ellen, 100, sees the future

A FORMER nurse approaching her 100th birthday has been given a tour of the new Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury - and found it a world away from when the old site once boasted a piggery, and patients were given a daily dose of beer.

Ellen Noakes, a ward sister at the old Pembury Hospital during the Second World War, described its £230 million replacement as "out of this world".

Her friends and neighbours Fred and Pearl Sirman contacted Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust to ask if she could be shown round as part of celebrations to mark her 100th birthday.

Mrs Noakes, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, said: "The first thing I noticed was how bright and airy it is.

"It's out of this world compared to what I worked with. There was no hand gel and we didn't have baby resuscitators or incubators."

She added: "During the Second World War,

we always had to make sure there were enough beds available in case there was an air raid.

"Hospitals were expected to be more self-sufficient in those days and Pembury had a piggery. Many patients were also given a daily ration of beer."

Mrs Noakes began nursing aged 19, at Guy's Hospital in London, and moved to Pembury in 1939, staying in lodgings.

By 1952 she had become a matron at West Kent Hospital in Maidstone where she stayed for 10 years until she married.

Her visit to the hospital, the first in the country to feature all single, en-suite rooms, was a surprise organised by her friends.

Project director Graham Goddard showed them around the women's and children's department and maternity unit, which opened in January. The hospital opens fully in September this year.



TOUR: Graham Goddard, left, with Ellen Noakes, seated, and Pearl and Fred Sirman

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Where cuts hit hardest



CELEBRATED LINKS: Ukraine has a colourful history. Clockwise from left: Glory Park celebrates the memory of those who lost their lives in the Second World War; Oleksa Hirnyk set fire to himself to fight for his language; Sunrise over the River Dnieper, the town of Kaniv is built on its banks. Southborough's Brian Dobson and Mike Handcock of the Southborough and Kaniv Association, SAKA

If you think the cuts are hitting services hard in the UK, spare a thought for the people of the Ukraine, where one in three lives in poverty. But did you know of the close links between west Kent and one particular Ukraine town? JENNA PUDELEK learns more

GEOGRAPHICALLY and culturally, there is little in common between a town in former communist central Ukraine and leafy true blue Southborough.

Yet a chance meeting a decade ago sparked a remarkable friendship between two very different towns, which continues to blossom today.

The result has been the Southborough and Kaniv Association (SAKA). Founded in 2005, it has provided a platform for a mutually beneficial link between the two areas.

For Mike Handcock, the association's chair, it has been an eye-opening experience since he first met with representatives from Kaniv at the European Project for Youth, an EU initiative, in Southborough's twin town of Lambersart, France, in 2001.

He got chatting to the group leader from the Ukraine, Lyudmila Synenko, and was interested to find out about where she lived, and surprised to hear that they had not flown to France, but had driven all the way.

The next year they met again at a similar event at Swattenden, near Cranbrook, which Mr Handcock attended as Mayor of Southborough.



Over tea at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall, Mr Handcock spoke again with Ms Synenko and this time asked if there was anything they could do to help.

She said the children in Kaniv were very keen to learn English, but did not have many English books. Mr Handcock launched a collection and the community donated 13 boxes of books.

The mayor of Kaniv then invited Mr Handcock to attend the town's 925th anniversary. He said: "I was not sure what to expect. Not all that long ago it was a communist country.

"We were greeted at the airport in Kiev by a group from Kaniv and we were taken there in a minibus carrying all the bouquets of flowers we'd been given. There were a lot of hugs, kisses and singing all the way there.

"It has really gone from there. When I got there I never expected to be addressing 7,000 people in the square. Fortunately, being a former headteacher, it did not faze me too much.

"I've been to the Ukraine eight times since then. I love it there. Kaniv is such an interesting town and I like the country. The people are so generous and hospitable."

Other people from Southborough visited Kaniv and residents from the Ukrainian town, which is in the province of Cherkasy, came to Kent.

SAKA was set up to encourage more visits between the two towns and to support projects there. It now has about 50 members who meet regularly.

Member Brian Dobson has recently completed work on a website for the association, which is full of information about both towns and their history. He hopes it will encourage more residents of Southborough to join.

"It has taken a long time to gather information, in particular about

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Internship offer for graduates

GRADUATES are set to benefit from a new internship scheme run jointly with a local council.

Voluntary Action Within Kent and Sevenoaks District Council said their Springboard to Success programme aims to bring graduates and employers together.

The scheme has been developed in response to the growing number of university leavers unable to find jobs. It is open to all graduates and businesses in the district.

It will help graduates get a foot on the career ladder by gaining unpaid work experience in the voluntary, community, private or public sector.

Successful applicants will be supported and offered on-the-job training and mentoring opportunities with senior managers. Employers will have the chance to harness the potential of bright young people.

For details call Liz James at Sevenoaks Volunteer Centre on 01732 454785 or 07755 873013, alternatively e-mail graduate@vawk.org.uk or visit www.vawk.org.uk.

Breakthrough cleans up rubbish tip gases

A COMPANY founded by academics has achieved a world first by trapping carbon dioxide produced from rubbish dumps, writes **Mathew Beech**.

And the landfill site it used to create the breakthrough was in Tunbridge Wells.

Medway-based Carbon8 Systems Limited has discovered a unique method where construction materials can be produced in such a way that they absorb carbon dioxide directly from landfill gas.

The method of production used accelerated carbonation, which captures the greenhouse gas generated by the degradation of waste and gases brought in from other sources.

Methane emitted by the decomposing waste is burnt to generate a carbon-rich gas stream that is used to treat ash generated by waste incineration.

The ash, after taking on its load of CO₂, is then ready for use as an aggregate material for construction or in the manufacture of concrete blocks.

Dr Paula Carey, Carbon8's managing director said: "We're a spin-off from the University of Greenwich and last summer, between August and September, we had a trial project under contract with Kent County Council (KCC).

"We took the landfill gas, produced at the North Farm landfill site in Tunbridge Wells, and heated it in a specially-designed boiler to create the maximum amount of carbon dioxide.

"We use this to treat the waste from which we make an aggregate, which is then used at the landfill site."

The material produced via this



BREAKTHROUGH: Carbon dioxide from rubbish is being used in construction

method has been used to help manage and maintain the North Farm landfill site and bring it up to a standard that meets current levels for rubbish tips.

Dr Carey said: "A landfill site degrades with time and compacts.

"This leaves hollow voids and it is also producing carbon dioxide and methane gas. We use the aggregate we produce to fill in these hollows and to help them keep their shape.

"Landfills of the age of the Tunbridge Wells site are not up to modern standards, often using a clay cap, whereas now they would use a membrane which would stop the rain getting in and the gas getting out.

"Our aggregate will help to prevent the gas getting out as well, by offering a control layer."

The ash-based aggregate also provides economic ben-

efits as well as environmental gains.

Aggregate usually costs contractors about £25-£30 per tonne, and there is a recognised shortage of the material in the South East.

The ash-based, carbon rich product is being sold for £10 per tonne.

Carbon8 Systems is now exploring opportunities in the USA and Canada, where it already has patents, and in Europe and Australia.



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FOLKESTONE - CALAIS



Kaniv, which has involved working in Ukrainian and Russian," Mr Dobson said.

"SAKA can now boast the best English language website for Kaniv and one of the best for Southborough."

SAKA has been fund-raising to help elderly people in Kaniv through the cold winter months.

Mr Handcock told how he had met with older members of the community, including some who survived the Holodomor (death by starvation), the famine imposed by Josef Stalin.

He said one 92-year-old woman was still working in her garden when they arrived in the evening. She disappeared to the kitchen and returned with a carrier bag full of walnuts.

The translator explained they were a gift and she said they must return the next evening for some potatoes.

"Wherever you go, people who have the least are prepared and happy to give it away," he said.

Times are especially tough in Ukraine at the moment. The country's economy shrank 15 per cent in 2009 and the familiar formula of prices rises, tax increases and public spending cuts have been brought in.

One in three people live in

poverty in the Ukraine and they are feeling the brunt of the cuts.

"The presidential election changed the situation a good deal," Mr Handcock said. "But that does not stop them behaving just as they have."

Life is very difficult for them out there. They've just merged School Number Six with School Number Two in Kaniv and some of the staff will lose their jobs."

Kaniv itself is a fascinating and culturally-rich town on the banks of the River Dnieper, as SAKA's new website shows.

It is the burial site of Taras Schevchenko, a 19th century poet, artist, and national hero. His work is seen as the foundation of modern Ukrainian literature and its language.

Another national hero, Oleksa Hirnyk, set fire to himself in 1978 on Chernicha Hill in protest against the suppression of the Ukrainian language by the Soviet authorities.

Other sites of interest include the Park of Glory, a memorial to the military personnel who died in the battles around Kaniv during the Second World War.

• For more information visit SAKA's website at www.southboroughandkanivassociation.com.

Clever little piggies go to market

The Pantiles is Tunbridge Wells' oldest and original shopping centre, predominantly made up of independent shops.

It provides a perfect base for our markets held on every first and third weekend of the month.

Stalls offer a variety of items for sale including the freshest local produce and imaginative crafts.

Forthcoming market dates –

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19 and 20 March, 2 and 3 April,

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Follow @pantilestraders on Twitter.

To book a stall contact Jackie Eslami on 07902 215942 or 01892 516905 or email: markets@pantilestraders.co.uk



 ASSOCIATION OF PANTILES TRADERS

JULIE MADDOCKS



On your marks, get set, go! Race for 2012 seats is on

SO WE'RE off and running in the race to get tickets for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The website ticket launch caused chaos as people rushed online in an attempt to secure their place at the Games, despite appeals from the organisers.

London 2012 chairman Lord Coe was at pains to point out this was "a marathon, not a sprint", but was duly ignored.

We have until April 26 to apply for some of the 6.6 million tickets which went on sale 500 days before the event. The 42-day sales process should mean each application will be treated in exactly the same way.

Within minutes, thousands were online, the website crashed, and those without a certain type of card

were halted in their tracks.

To add insult to injury, people with Visa cards – the only way to pay online – which expire before the end of August found the website was unable to complete their orders.

The tickets available to the public are via an application process, with the most popular events being decided on a ballot system.

Some events will be free, such as the marathon, and it's good news for those under 17, who will be able to 'pay your age' to see some of the early heats, while the over-60s can pay just £16 at the same events – but note this doesn't apply to the finals.

What was also revealed were restrictions on what you can take into the stadium. Banned items include liquids in containers bigger than 100ml, Frisbees, flags

of non-competing countries, tripods, large quantities of coins, and mobile phones.

Family picnics will also be restricted, with all bags subject to an x-ray and any contraband confiscated. So bang goes your bottle of water or Thermos for that cuppa halfway through the day. The severe clampdown has been likened to airport security and is designed to minimise terrorist threats.

And you can forget about atmosphere. Perhaps in an attempt to avoid a repeat of the vuvuzelas at the World Cup last year, horns, whistles, drums and other instruments will be banned if they disturb the Games. Perhaps it's the long run-up to these Olympics – we've been living and breathing this event since 2005 – but I just feel a bit bored with the whole thing.

At least the countdown is now under way – and I must admit that really made me smile.

The centrepiece of celebrations to mark 500 days to go to the Games was a clock which counts down the days, hours, minutes and seconds to the opening ceremony.

However, the official timepiece stopped working only a day after it was unveiled in Trafalgar Square. Bizarrely, the sight proved hugely popular as tourists lined up to have their photo taken beside the stalled display. It all bodes well, then, for July 27, 2012. I'll be there, even if I've no hope of getting a ticket.

I'll be outside the Olympic Park with my glorious picnic, complete with flask, chatting away on a mobile phone while waving the flag of St George and blowing my trumpet at full blast.

Radio personality Julie Maddocks is a regular columnist – contact her at julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk



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Picture: ISobel Cameron

IMPORTANT: Bedgebury Pinetum

RSPB joins bid to boost wildlife in woodlands

By JAMES BENJAMIN

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) says it is "very pleased" after being invited to form part of an independent panel examining ways of boosting wildlife in woodland.

It comes just weeks after the Government announced a dramatic U-turn on its plans to sell off some of the UK's forests – including Bedgebury.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) last week unveiled the line-up of the panel, which includes representatives from the RSPB and other conservation and access charities, as well as landowning and forestry interests.

The RSPB will raise the issue of improving the wildlife value of all of England's native woods, both on private and public land, as well as the restoration of important areas of heathland and ancient woodland currently covered in forestry plantations.

Steve Gilbert of RSPB South East, said: "The creation of this independent panel is a step in the right direction, and we are pleased that the RSPB has been invited to sit on it.

"The recent controversy over the proposed sell-off of Forestry Commission land, and the public concern over the future of areas such as the New Forest, have highlighted just how important our nationally owned and managed woodlands are to us.

Ownership

"The RSPB still believes the New Forest should not be sold off to the private or charitable sectors and we are not equipped to simply take over.

"But the issues of ownership and management of the New Forest remain and need to be discussed, and this independent panel provides us with an opportunity to do so."

The RSPB says efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitats will be critical as the UK works towards targets to tackle the ongoing decline in biodiversity by 2020.

Mr Gilbert added: "There is great potential for areas in the South East that have been planted with commercial conifers to be restored to their former glory as wildlife-rich heathlands and woodlands, giving many rare and threatened species a chance to recover."

SIX secondary schools have competed in an alcohol and drug education drama competition to raise awareness of the issues affecting young people.

Hugh Christie Technology College, in Tonbridge, won the £1,000 prize to put towards drama equipment, and all students received a certificate and gift voucher.

Students researched, wrote, produced and performed short plays based on their lives or

experiences with drugs and alcohol.

The aim was to encourage young people to think seriously about their lifestyles and not to be pressured into doing things just to fit in.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "I would like to congratulate Hugh Christie on their excellent production and commend other schools that were involved.

"Using drama is a powerful way to get a message across, and when that drama is written and

performed by young people for young people, it can have such a positive impact."

Borden Grammar School in Sittingbourne and St Simon Stock in Maidstone came second, and third. Thamesview School in Gravesend and Barton Court Grammar in Canterbury were runners up.

KCC's cabinet member for communities Cllr Mike Hill added: "I hope the young people enjoyed the competition and congratulations to the winners."

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They are not flying rats

I read with concern the war on pigeons story. I have a few thoughts on the subject.

Firstly, I dislike the use of the term "flying rats" to describe feral pigeons due to its connotation. Terminology such as this is one reason why feral pigeons are viewed so negatively by the public.

In reality, pigeons are no more unhygienic or diseased than a dog or a cat. They pose no health risk to the public, as a little research into the subject will show.

Pest control companies will, however, propagate such misconception to their benefit.

There are millions of pigeons in cities throughout the world living in close proximity to humans, and should they pose such a serious health risk as people often believe, then we'd have hundreds of people suffering from pigeon-related illness, not to mention countless records of these transmissions.

However, this is not the case and it is incredibly rare to find any instance of disease being transmitted to humans from pigeons. The same could not be said for cats, dogs or cattle.

So while I can understand that people don't want pigeons around because their droppings are unsightly and may cause damage to buildings, the argument that the traders in the Pantiles want to get rid of pigeons because they pose a health risk is unfounded.

I applaud the traders for finding a humane solution rather than killing off the pigeons (an expensive and ineffective measure since another flock would move into the area soon after). However, without blocking off nesting sites and ridding the area of food, the pigeons will return soon after the hawk has left.

Unless, of course, the traders pay for the hawk to be a permanent fixture at the Pantiles.

As a closing note, while I reiterate my praise for the humane solution taken, I would like to point out that pigeons have most likely inhabited the Pantiles for as long as they have existed. Who are we to decide they are no longer welcome?

R Poole, Tunbridge Wells

Make your voice heard

WE WELCOME your comments and letters for publication.

Please send correspondence to: The Editor, One Media/Archant KOS Media, Kenwood House, 1 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2EL

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances.

Please also include a daytime

telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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HOUSE DIVIDED: Coalition partners Clegg and Cameron at odds over voting system

Make your vote count

We have an AV referendum thanks to politicians who are only half interested in what is good for us.

They are mainly interested in what is good for their parties. AV is supported by the Liberal Democrats because it is thought they will gain more seats under it.

First-past-the-post is supported by the Conservatives and many Labour MPs because it distorts elections in their favour. The legislation for the AV referendum also allows for the reduction of MPs from 650 to 600.

The number 600 was picked by the Conservatives mainly because it will help them gain more seats.

However, the sting in the tail for our MPs is that the referendum takes the matter out of their hands and into ours. It gives us the opportunity to decide what we want.

I live in a safe seat and for the last three elections I have not voted for the party of my choice. I have voted for the party that stood the best chance of defeating the sitting MP.

And I was not alone, because thousands of people up and down the country did the same. Under AV we would all be able to vote for our preferred party without our votes being wasted.

Jim Pragnell, Otford

Curb Lib Dems' anger

I really can't understand why Liberal Democrat supporters like Jim Carter have become so enraged by the actions of the party.

The Lib Dems have been struggling to get into power longer than my 65 years and then when they get a vicarious shot at it, a chance they might never have had and to also change the voting system in their favour, all hell breaks loose.

People fail to understand they are part of a coalition, with the Tories being the main party.

They are actually having a moderating influence on the Tories, something that wouldn't have happened if the Conservatives had gone it alone, or Labour had got back in. Obviously the Lib Dems can't be the tail wagging the dog, but then they have more clout now than they've had in living memory.

For goodness sake, connect with reality. Maybe the AV vote will give the Lib Dems a more just result in elections, with seats more in proportion to the number of votes cast. Then they can have more influence and maybe carry through all their own policies.

But if the majority of their voters desert them in a fit of pique, because they imagine with their small share of seats they should be running the Tory party, they will never ever have any chance.

Fairweather voters, who needs them?
Phil Granger, West Malling

VOTE NOW...

EACH week we'll be giving you the chance to make your voice heard on a major issue.

After last week's question on the upcoming AV referendum, we want to know that if there was to be a snap General Election today, how would you vote?

Would you keep the county true blue or have the recent cuts left you disillusioned?

There are a range of options to choose from, so vote now – see the poll on the home page of www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk, www.yourtonbridge.co.uk or www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

Full results will be printed next week.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How will you vote on the AV referendum on May 5?

- Yes – 55 per cent
- No – 23 per cent
- I will abstain – 5 per cent
- What is the AV referendum? – 15 per cent

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BIRTHS

ALWAN

Jimmy, born on 28th February 2011, weighing 6lbs 11ozs. Son to Siad Alwan and Hannah Game in Dover.

HARRINGTON

Leeanne and Christopher are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Eliza May Harrington on 23rd February 2011 weighing 9lb 2oz.

JOHNSON

Charlotte and Mark Johnson celebrate the birth of their son Andrew Peter Harpur Johnson on the 7th March 2011, weighing 8lb 13oz.

MACKENZIE

Elizabeth May born on 8th March 2011, weighing 8lbs 12ozs. Daughter to Ian and Lisa Mackenzie in Margate.

MAHON

Jessica Rose Mahon was born on the 2nd March 2011 at 9:57am at Darent Valley Hospital and she weighed 7lb 3oz. Her proud parents Andrew and Karen are absolutely delighted with her safe arrival and are looking forward to introducing her to all their family and friends.

MCGURK- BRIGNELL

Micaela and Tom of Broadstairs are

delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Charlotte Amelia McGurk-Brignell, born at QEJM Hospital on 15th February 2011, weighing 6lb 8oz. Our little nugget.

MDIMER

Emmie-Rose born to Steven and Charlotte on the 14th March 2011.

O'HARA

Melanie and Richard celebrate the birth of their daughter Daisy Mae O'Hara on 2nd March 2011.

O'MAHONEY

Kimberley James and Liam O'Mahoney would like to welcome their son Ryan Thomas O'Mahoney into the world, born on the 10th March 2011, weighing 6lb 9oz.

QUINN

Richard and Sam celebrate the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lilly Grace Quinn, born on 7th March 2011, weighing 7lb 6oz.

ROSS

Penelope Ann Ross born on the 13th March 2011, weighing 6lb 15oz. Daughter to Steven and Hayley of Folkestone.

WILLIAMS

Arron and Donna are delighted to announce the birth of their

beautiful daughter Emily Christine Williams, who was born at 21:05pm on the 8th March 2011 and weighed 8lb 7oz.

DEATHS

CHURCH

Andy Church, accomplished sportsman and devoted father, sadly passed away on 11th March 2011. The funeral to be held at Christ Church, Echo Square, at 2pm on the 28th March 2011. Sadly missed by family and friends.

EDGLEY

Beryl Patricia of Kingsdown passed away peacefully on 17th March 2011 after a long illness. Enquiries to E. B. Cavell 01304 373275.

FITZPATRICK

Annie Fitzpatrick of Lydd, passed away on the 15th March 2011.

Enquiries to Romney Marsh Funeral Services.

HUGHES

Margaret Hughes, formerly of Maidstone and Tenterden, died peacefully on 8th March 2011, aged 89 years. Much loved mother of John and Jennifer and Grandmother of Iain. Donations may be made to Kent Air Ambulance.

RATCLIFFE

Richard Hartington Ratcliffe died at home in his daughter's arms on Sunday 6th March at midnight. A loyal and doting husband, amazing father, exciting grandfather and wonderful friend. A huge loss to all who knew him, will be missed by all. Please contact Farriers Funeral Directors for information of the funeral arrangements.

STENT

Edgar William (George), suddenly at home on 6th March. Thanksgiving at St Peter and St Paul, 1st April, at 2.30pm

STRATTON

Ethel Lilian Stratton, died Saturday 12th March, aged 94. Funeral at Western-Super-Mare Crematorium, 1st April at 2pm. Please contact Sue Masters (Niece), 01934 842018.

WILLIAMS

Albert John Williams of Chilham passed away on 15th March 2011 at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford. A much loved dad, grandad and friend who will be deeply missed. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday 30th March at 12.40. All flowers welcome, or if desired, donations to Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury.

force in April and obliges energy companies to provide financial assistance to vulnerable people struggling to pay their energy bills. Despite strong public support for Macmillan's campaigns, the Government has rejected calls to automatically give people who are terminally ill the rebate and to prioritise cancer patients most at risk of fuel poverty in the scheme.

Macmillan estimates the cost of including people with a terminal illness in the scheme to be less than four per cent of the fund. Sadly, cancer patients who are vulnerable to fuel poverty look set to carry on missing out on much-needed financial help.

Put pressure on the Government to end the misery of thousands of cancer patients who turn off their heating because they're worried about energy bills.

You can show your support by joining the thousands who have already signed Macmillan's woolly scarf petition at www.infi-knit.org.uk

Annie Morgan, Tunbridge Wells

Making way for young generation

I would like to announce that I will not be standing for re-election at Birchington Parish Council come the election in May.

I feel the time has now come to give a younger generation the opportunity to serve the people of Birchington. I would like to thank everyone for the support that I have received since being elected, and I look forward to spending more time with my animal welfare work. I will miss working with my colleagues, especially councillors Margaret Sheldrick, John Worrow and Julie Francis, who have become dear friends.

Thank you, Birchington!

Cllr Jean Fleming,
Birchington Parish Council

Time to act on over-population

I rarely agree with Phil Granger, especially when he buttresses his arguments with Biblical quotations. However, his reference to over-population is spot on, even though I'm not convinced it is the cause of flooding.

Overpopulation, and a constant increase in that population, is probably the root cause of many of the problems besetting not only this country but also the world. We can't do much about the world, but we ought to be able to do something in our own country.

The human race is the only animal species not to fit its population to the resources available. The Earth has finite resources, yet our demands for food, water and energy supplies continue to increase. The system is not sustainable.

In the late 1970s, Fred Hoyle pointed out the imbalance between an exponential population growth and a depletion of cheap natural energy sources. The future he painted was bleak and he predicted that, unless populations stabilised and gradually reduced, there would be a collapse of our present civilisation within this century. Looking back over the last 30 years, I'd say the process was well under way.

Dave Stewart, Deal

part in the TUC's peaceful 'march for the alternative', against the cuts, and for jobs, growth and social justice for all.

Leaving the Victoria Embankment from midday, the marchers are heading to Hyde Park for an afternoon rally, which starts at 1.30pm – more details of which can be found at <http://marchforthealternative.org.uk/>

To find out more about transport to London, please see <http://falseeconomy.org.uk/themarch> to determine if there are coaches or trains leaving from where you live. And if you or your family is being affected by the cuts, and you'd like to tell the TUC your story, please email marchforthealternative@tuc.org.uk.

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing. Please do not sleepwalk into a less fair and nastier Britain. There is a better way. You have a voice. Please join us on the demonstration on March 26 and make your voice heard.

Megan Dobney, TUC regional secretary for the South East

Cancer patients denied vital help

The Government has turned its back on vulnerable cancer patients and the terminally ill.

The new Warm Home Discount scheme is supposed to help those most in need, but ignores the two thirds of cancer patients struggling to pay their bills.

People with cancer often have high energy bills due to spending long periods of time at home during treatment or recovery, and may feel the cold more because of their condition. Often these higher bills coincide with an average 50 per cent drop in household income, because many cancer patients are unable to work.

The Warm Home Discount comes into

consensual scientific evidence, has no value. He is, however, nearer to reality in making a link between over-population, tarmac and concrete covering our landscape and flooding. Kent is in the unusual position of having a population growth rate far higher than the national average.

The main reason for this, according to the County Council's draft Local Transport Plan, is people moving out of London into Kent.

Instead of meeting this demand by putting Kent and Medway's estimated 22,000 empty homes, 6,000 empty industrial buildings and countless long-term empty shopfronts into use, councils have generally supported building more houses. Worse, they have chosen to build on areas prone to flooding.

Global warming increases moisture in the atmosphere, through evaporation as a result of higher average temperatures. This makes more extreme weather events more frequent. The rapid rise in extreme weather events afflicting the UK and many other parts of the world is consistent with this process.

In short, more flooding in Kent can be expected to follow the severe floods we have seen over the last 15 years or so.

New homes, where actually needed, should be on brownfield sites where the risks of flooding are minimal. Of course, it would help if our Government had better policies on both global warming and fostering regional development in the areas of the country which need it most.

Steve Dave, Kent Green Party

UKIP is the only real alternative

As local Tories retreat into introspection following their defeat in the Pembury by-election, one has to say that the decline in the Conservative vote was not surprising.

It was caused by the resignation of councillor Mike Tompsett, who resigned in protest at the way his fellow Conservative borough councillors had passed a vote of no confidence in their colleague (and the former leader of the Borough Council) Roy Bullock, after Bullock made a number of gaffes.

What was surprising, however, was that the percentage of electors who voted in the by-election was only slightly down on the low turnout one normally sees in an local government election, which shows that the electorate are angry and keen to express their opinion.

Following Tompsett's resignation, the Conservatives did not help themselves by selecting a 'Johnny Come-Lately' (aka Robert Rutherford) as their candidate, whilst the Lib Dems made a big thing about the fact that their candidate (Claire Brown) was the only candidate to actually live in Pembury.

On the doorstep, however, I detected a real and growing anger at the Coalition Government nationally, which was reflected by the turnout in the by-election and growing support for Ukip, as locally, Ukip is the only real opposition to the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in local authority and parliamentary elections.

I do not wish to be over-optimistic about how Ukip's vote will hold up in the borough council elections on May 5 but, if Vic Webb's vote in the Pembury by-election is anything to go by, I believe the Tories have every reason to be scared of Ukip.

And before Conservatives accuse Ukip of splitting the vote and letting a centre-left pro-EU party in, may one add that it is now not only on the all-important issue of whether we remain in the EU or not, that one finds the similarities between the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats are far greater than the differences between them... to the extent that any sensible voter who believes in minimal government now only has one party to vote for; ie Ukip, if one is to save our country and community from the abyss.

Christopher Luke, Tunbridge Wells

Keep Kent Working!

It's jobs for Kent

Keep Kent Working!

2011 Campaign It's jobs for Kent

Emergency crews' road test course

A COURSE designed to provide firefighters with the skills needed to drive fire engines in emergencies has been accredited by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

The 10-day Emergency Fire Appliance Driver (EFAD) course is delivered at Kent Fire and Rescue Service's driving school in Maidstone.

To get the qualification, firefighters need to complete a written theory test and practical assessments on a variety of roads and traffic conditions.

Driving school manager Jim Wilton said: "When many people think of the fire and rescue service, they often think of fire engines rushing to the scene of an accident on blue lights."

"And while these vehicles are the most widely used by firefighters, what many people do not realise is that their construction, shape, power and weight distributions are mechanisms that create unique limitations for drivers."

"Emergency fire service drivers carry a great deal of responsibility – such as ensuring their fellow colleagues and other road users' safety – so it's crucial that we have staff expertly trained."

Normally firefighters who complete the EFAD course would have to then take the IAM advanced driving test.

However, because the Kent version is to such a high standard, IAM assessors have deemed those passing exempt from the process.

Mr Wilton said: "Our qualified drivers demonstrate that they possess the first-class mental and physical decision-making and observation skills needed to ensure complete control of their vehicle at all times."

"In highly stress-filled situations, they will predict, identify and respond to potential hazards that could impact on the health and safety of our staff and other road-users, while being conscious of arriving as quickly as possible to the scene of an incident."

EXPERT ACCESS: Uwe Derksen (second right) with the Edge team



Sharpening your act with a creative Edge

By STEVE KNIGHT

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE University for the Creative Arts has launched a new service offering businesses across Kent and beyond access to its facilities and experts.

Entitled 'Edge', the scheme has already worked with Kent County Council's 2012 Olympics campaign as well as with the clothing manufacturer Funzee and even the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation.

The experts based at UCA – which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester – offer consultancy and bespoke in-house training to businesses, as well as access to their technical facilities.

"We have a huge pool of highly qualified and very talented people at UCA who have a great deal to offer outside of our campuses," said Uwe Derksen, assistant director of research and enterprise.

"Their expertise reaches across a wide variety of creative sectors while the technical facilities we offer match or exceed the current industry standard, so we really believe

we can give our clients the edge they are looking for, no matter what they require.

"Edge also offers the university another source of income, which is particularly important at the moment with the huge cuts to education funding that we are facing over the coming months."

Last week, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which sets university grants, revealed that UCA's budget will be cut by about nine per cent this year.

The Edge project, which is the brainchild of the university's research and enterprise department, offers creative expertise and services in a wide range of in-demand industry sectors.

These include 3D digital design, architecture, film, media, marketing, fashion design, fine art, product design and more.

UCA has collaborated with businesses in the past but consultancy inquiries have increased rapidly in recent months, leading to the formation of Edge and the compilation of a staff database.

Funzee, which manufactures all-in-one nightwear for adults, is one of the companies to have benefited from the service thus far.

Owner Mark Heselgrave said: "Edge

helped me with a sizing issue that was stalling the company's growth – too many of the suits we produce were being returned.

"The consultant helped me make my sizing more scientific, which has led to fewer returns, an increase in profits and, of course, more happy customers."

Edge's website features a unique experts' directory which allows visitors to read about each consultant's previous experience and subject areas. It also contains the full list of services Edge offers, as well as case studies from recent projects. Log on to www.ucaeedge.com for more information. Alternatively, email edge@ucreative.ac.uk or call 01622 620162.

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Are you running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are your employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or are you funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

Send your good news stories to steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817136.

What course will you choose?

Enrol now for 2011

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/adulted or call 0845 606 5606 to enrol today!



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Building to a climax

CONSTRUCTION students from across the county have been competing to find the region's best trainee bricklayers, carpenters, painters and joiners.

Students from MidKent College, K College, North West Kent College, Thanet College and Canterbury College battled it out in individual heats of the SkilledUp contest, with the winners facing off at the grand final later this year.

MidKent College principal Stephen Grix said: "Standards improve each year during the competition heats."

"The quality of the work produced last year was very high, yet these students have managed to top even that."

The winners of each heat were presented with a range of prizes donated by the

power tool manufacturer and competition sponsor, Makita UK. Regional representative David Chillingworth said: "We're great supporters of this competition."

"These students are the future of the industry, the competition gives them something to aim for and we're pleased to help them on their way."

K College's head of construction, Mike Stanley, said he was impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and skill demonstrated by his students.

He added: "All the students have taken on the challenge and gone for it and the results speak for themselves."

"It shows how everyone is capable of going the distance. You just need to keep going and never give up."



WELL DONE: Jack Fulker, left, is congratulated by Mark Stockdale of the Department for Education. With them is Wonders of the Universe presenter Professor Brian Cox

Jack's universal appeal

TV SCIENTIST Professor Brian Cox was on hand to congratulate the Kent-based winner of a national competition.

The Wonders of the Universe presenter was one of the judges of the National Science and Engineering Competition, and presented the 'highly commended' award in the junior science and maths category to Canterbury schoolboy Jack Fulker.

Archbishop's School pupil Jack was recognised for his liquefaction project, which explored which materials were best for

reclaiming land in areas badly affected by earthquakes. Prof Cox, who was also a member of the 1990s pop group D:Ream, said: "The standard of entries was outstanding and the judging process proved much harder than expected."

"The judges were truly overwhelmed by all the finalists' projects and it's wonderful to witness such enthusiasm and dedication from young people such as Jack. It's left me hugely excited about the future of science and engineering in the UK."

Masterful retail workshops

STUDENTS from across the county took part in a series of retail master classes at Bluewater shopping centre.

The workshops, which covered subjects including merchandising and marketing, were organised by Kent County Council in partnership with Bluewater and North West Kent College.

About 200 pupils from schools in Dartford, Gravesend, Canterbury and Swale took part. Cabinet member for education, learn-



BUSINESS TRAINING SOLUTIONS

MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

Subject areas available include:

- Building & Civil Engineering
- Commercial & Business
- Construction Crafts
- Education
- Electrical
- Floristry
- Health & Safety
- Health & Social Care
- Holistics
- Hospitality
- ICT
- Logistics
- Management
- Office Skills
- Plumbing
- Security



MidKent College
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone
for more information.

01634 402020

Apprenticeship Week

7-11 February 2011



Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February

- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event



Tuesday 8th February

- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February

- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February

- Apprenticeship Bus will be at Westwood Cross from 8.30am-6.00pm,
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes



Events run by Training Solutions
At Work - Through Work - For Work
01843 605032 / training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk

TO ADVERTISE: TELEPHONE: 01303 817040 | FAX: 01303 817004 | EMAIL: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

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- Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities
- Estate Agency, Property
- Graduate, Trainees
- Health and Safety, Security, Defence
- HR, Recruitment
- Industrial, Warehouse, Factory
- IT, Internet, Telecoms

- Insurance, Banking, Finance
- Legal
- Leisure, Tourism, Travel
- Management Consultancy
- Management, Senior Positions
- Marketing, Advertising
- Motor Trade, Driver
- Not for Profit, Charities

- Nursing, Medicine, Care Work
- Other
- Print, Packaging, Distribution
- PR, Media, Journalism
- Public Sector, Social Services
- Retail, Wholesale, Sales
- Scientific and Pharmaceutical, Research
- Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Invicta Motors are currently looking for successful New and Used Car Sales Executives

Tunbridge Wells, Mazda & Maidstone Honda

The successful candidates will be ambitious, self-motivated and commercially minded with an aptitude to developing the business.

- Must have previous car sales experience
- Have an excellent standard of verbal and written communication
- Be organised and offering a high standard of Customer care
- A flexible approach to working hours
- Presentable and punctual
- A valid driving licence

In return, we offer the experienced applicant the opportunity to sell the superb range of Mazda/Honda vehicles with one of the most progressive motor retailers in the country. This position comes with an OTE of £40k and the use of a company vehicle.

If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent

NO AGENCY CALLS

Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

BOBBING
www.achuk.com

SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary £13,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871.



Ashford International Hotel is currently looking for two experienced managers to join our team

Deputy General Manager

£28,000 to £33,000 per annum dependant on experience

As Operations Manager you'll be reporting directly to the General Manager and be taking the reins when they're not around. You'll be responsible for the daily operation of your hotel with a specific focus on food and beverage, conferences and events. Ultimately, it's about growing and developing the operational areas of our business to ensure we achieve our profit targets, so you will also be involved in development of the hotel business strategy and budget, as well as assisting with the forecast on a weekly basis. And because we don't believe in strict corporate guidelines, you'll have freedom to make your own decisions and think up new and creative ways to get results. Previous Hotel Experience is essential for this role

Front of House Manager

£19,000 to £21,000 per annum dependant on experience

As Reception Manager you'll lead, inspire and motivate the Reception team to handle check in and check out to give a great first and last impression making sure that our guests have everything they need to be comfortable and enjoy their stay. Our Reception team thrives on pressure and are nothing if not flexible, welcoming and, quite frankly, amazing at all times! We also know that each and every one of our guests wants to be made to feel special, so no lengthy standards checklists for us! You'll just use your instinct to build a great rapport and deliver our distinctively memorable one of a kind service.

Contact information

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your CV and covering letter to **Jemima Wilkins**, HR Manager at jwilkins@qhotels.co.uk or apply online at www.qhotels.co.uk



Due to an increased order book we are looking for the following personnel:

Jig Borer/Jig Grinder Wire Eroder/Spark Eroder

Please send CV to **Ray Baigent**
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk
Tel: 01634 233216

STORES PERSON

Required by a local Sevenoaks Company for a variety of duties including the control of a Small Stores Warehouse, some assembly/fabrication work. The individual will need to be flexible and organised. This is a full-time position, to apply please telephone 01732 743901

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HANDYMAN

We require a handyman to join our team at The Bridge, Tunbridge Wells, a new development of 2 bedroom apartments.

The successful candidate will be able to work alone or as part of a team. Duties will include light/medium maintenance, cleaning responsibilities and assisting the sales team with daily tasks. Immediate start essential.

Please telephone **0800 883 8170** for more information.



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THE SHIP & TRADES, CHATHAM MARITIME EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER

The successful applicant will be part of the Management Team, responsible for the day-to-day running of the business. Experience of management, not necessarily in the hospitality industry, is important for this position. In particular we are looking for someone who can lead and motivate staff to provide a consistently high standard of customer service in a busy and varied environment.

Benefits will include a competitive salary, 5 day week, 5.6 weeks paid holiday per annum, participation in the company's Assistant Management Development Programme, and excellent prospects for an enthusiastic, career minded candidate.

E-mail your CV and covering letter to ship&trades@shepherd-neame.co.uk



PART-TIME PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

The successful candidate would ideally have a construction and health & safety background and preferably be familiar with the compiling and writing of Pre Qualification Questionnaires and Select List Applications to be made ready for submitting to strict dead lines, the ability to work on your own initiative will also be required.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Please apply in writing with a CV to **Ron Twyman**, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk

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Glendale Appointment

Coblands Nurseries Ltd

Seasonal Temporary Nursery Assistants

Based at Tonbridge • £5.93 per hour based on a 40 hour week

This position is available on a temporary basis for immediate start until the 21st April 2011. The successful candidate will be required to work 5 days a week, Monday to Friday with extra hours as required. This role will involve potting, weeding and general maintenance of a wide range of container grown plants. The ideal candidate will work well as part of a team, be self-motivated and have a positive outlook on life.

If you feel you have the necessary skills for this position, please send your CV and letter of application to Jo Dury, Coblands Nurseries Ltd, Trench Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NG or email jo.dury@coblands.co.uk

Closing date: - 30th March 2011 www.coblands.co.uk

Glendale is an equal opportunities employer

Think Horticulture - Think Glendale

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY
Require
Enthusiastic fund raisers/instore promotion people/collectors

To work at venues in the Kent area
Full/part-time including weekends.
Start £6.50 p.h, plus bonus. Must drive.

Please call Sue: 07809 714252

GARDENER

required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work between 7-21 hours per week. Must have good sound knowledge in planting, pruning, hedge and grass cutting. Must work well on own initiative - own vehicle required

Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour plus fuel costs.

For more information please call 0800 032 0755

SHAMPOOIST/RECEPTIONIST

16 Hours per week.
Must be flexible with hours
Contact Tracy Hildrew on: 01732 750999
or email tracy@hildrew.orangehome.co.uk
or tracy.hildrew@btconnect.com

Full Time Dental Nurse required in Whitstable

Experience preferred, but training provided for the right candidate.
Knowledge of computers preferred.
For further information, contact: 07540 691677
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Required for around three days per week.
17th Edition preferred. Must have own tools and transport. Varied work.
Rates by experience and negotiation.
E-mail details to heronelectrical@hotmail.co.uk or phone Alan on 07926 068108

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Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus
Must have:

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 - Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2

If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion required, please telephone **07973559729**



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Westlands Academies Trust



THE WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

37 hours a week from 11am – 7pm Mondays-Friday

Kent Pay Band 3 - £14,099 - £15,984

Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis. Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours, should the need arise.

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team. As well as general caretaking duties they will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a good working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is essential. An awareness of swimming pool maintenance would be an advantage.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: 6 April 2011 Interviews: 8 April 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886

Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Holmewood Avenue

Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1XN

Company No 7344732



THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH SEVENOAKS

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)

The New School at West Heath works towards helping students develop life skills and enjoy social activities. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfES and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and innovative

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Required from September 2011

The successful candidate will:

- excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills to teach effectively up to GCSE

- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
 - have the ability work effectively within a team
 - teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4

We offer Teachers rate of pay and SEN allowance

Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description.

Email: personnel@westheathschool.com Tel: 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications 8 April 2011

The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring.

For further details about our school please visit our website www.westheathschool.com

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



**NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

We are seeking to appoint

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

25 hours per week/term time only • Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 - £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To work as part of a team to support the accurate recording, reporting and analysis of pupils attainment data.
Educated to at least A Level standard with a strong analytical ability and good knowledge of Excel.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE**Learning Support Assistant**

31.25 hours per week (8.30 am to 3.15 pm

Kent Scheme Grade 5 - Points 14-17 - £11,968 to £13,164 p.a.

To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of students with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs in relation to language. Excellent literacy skills in English and at least one other language which are supported by an enthusiastic and motivational approach to students. HLTA qualification desirable (or willingness to achieve HLTA).

TEACHING ASSISTANT

31.25 hours per week (8.30 to 3.15 pm)

Kent Scheme 4 or 5 dependant on qualifications & experience

To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of pupils with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 4 April 2011

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01622 623114www.recruitmentsense.comTo advertise in this section **01892 779650****JobsforKent.co.uk****Accountancy****Assistant Accountant**

Mid Kent
Salary £20,000 plus bonus
Reporting to the financial controller of an established local company you must have excellent Microsoft Excel with experience in Management Accounts and a background gained within general accounts. This is a busy role working to regular and tight timelines and requires an enthusiastic and dedicated approach.

To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jf@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1731

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Full-time/ Part-time
Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity as an Accounts Administrator and PA to Doctor has arisen within an expanding, exceptional health centre. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Must be a proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher; other basic computer skills are preferable. Hard working and motivated Enthusiastic and committed Organised and efficient Works well within a team and solo Thrives on self improvement and success

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administration, Secretarial, PA**Support Service Assistant**

The Folkestone School for Girls
Salary Kent Pay Scheme Band
To apply/more information:
Folkestone School For Girls
sfsluster@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ko5

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Required 42.5 hours per week - 8:00am to 4:30pm Mon to Fri £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
Previous experience working in a small business on a financial computer software package. You must have a full Driving Licence to drive company vehicle. Must have a good telephone manner and knowledge of computers to develop company website. Your duties will involve day to day operations of normal buying and selling procedures within a small business, accurate daily record keeping and filing of engineers site attendance into suspension And computer files, website development and other administration tasks as required. Rapid enhancement of pay structure for the right applicant. Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk

To apply/more information:
A & C Pumps Ltd
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Full-time/ Part-time
Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity as an Accounts Administrator and PA to Doctor has arisen within an expanding, exceptional health centre. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Must be a proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher; other basic computer skills are preferable. Hard working and motivated Enthusiastic and committed Organised and efficient Works well within a team and solo Thrives on self improvement and success

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Full-time/ Part-time
Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre. The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately.

Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Basic computer skills are preferable. Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient Work well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment**Gardener**

Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
Gardener required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work between 7-21 hours per week
Must have good sound knowledge of planting, pruning, hedge and grass cutting
Must work well on own initiative - own vehicle required
Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour plus fuel costs
For more information, please call 0800 032 0755.

To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Art and Design**ART TEACHER**

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and innovative ART TEACHER Required from September 2011 The successful candidate will:

• excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills to teach effectively up to GCSE • develop an innovative and creative learning environment • have the ability work effectively within a team • teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4 • the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD We offer Teachers rate of pay and SEN allowance. Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description. Email: personnel@westheathschool.co.uk Tel: 01732 460 553 Closing date for applications 8 April 2011 The successful applicant will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring. For further details about our school please visit our website

www.westheathschool.co.uk The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To apply/more information:
New School at West Heath (The)
personnel@westheathschool.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality**Part-time cook**

Meopham/Wrotham
Salary Negotiable
Part-time cook required for residential home in the Meopham and Wrotham area. Alternate weekends and plus holiday cover To cook for 50 plus elderly residents. Good home cooking skills required. Please call Karen or Julie - Tel: 01732 8222150 or email: hollywellpark@aol.com
To apply/more information:
Hollywell Park Ltd
debbiehollywell@aol.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus. Must have passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produce understanding of budgets, stock management Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2. If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion required, please telephone 07973 559729.

To apply/more information:
Cavendish Catering
01622664999@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef

Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theplough.swalecliffe@live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors**Estimator**

Ashford, Kent
Salary: Negotiable
Celebrating 130 years in the print industry, Headley Brothers Ltd is currently looking to recruit an Estimator. Working within the Commercial team and handling a range of print projects, as Estimator you would be responsible for: Producing accurate estimates, tenders and costings; obtaining pricing from internal sources and suppliers, and preparing price matrices..

Liaising with staff, suppliers and customers, to ensure provision of the best possible production alternatives and solutions to client requests. Supporting the Commercial Manager in ensuring the commercial success of the company. The ideal candidate will: Be self-motivated, highly-driven and dynamic. Have excellent organisational skills. Be a strong team player, with excellent interpersonal skills. Have strong oral, numerical and written communication skills.

Estimating experience and/or a knowledge of the print industry would be considered useful, but not essential. Headley Brothers Limited is an Investor in People and an equal opportunities employer. Please send your CV to Paul Palmer, Headley Brothers Ltd, The Invicta Press, Queens

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable

Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HH, or by email to: paul.palmer@headley.co.uk. All applications should include reference number: KOS01. Closing date: Friday 15th April 2011. Please note that responses will only be issued to applicants that are eligible for interview.

To apply/more information:
Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians
Pembury
Salary Negotiable
Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians to operate in Kent & Sussex. Full CI Driving Licence and ACOPs essential. Loft Insulation Installers also required. Permanent positions offered by construction company based in Pembury established 50 years. Contact David on 01892 825564 or email david@skinnerandreeves.com

To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Loft Insulation Installers

Pembury
Salary Negotiable
Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians to operate in Kent & Sussex. Full CI Driving Licence and ACOPs essential. Loft Insulation Installers also required. Permanent positions offered by construction company based in Pembury established 50 years. Contact David on 01892 825564 or email david@skinnerandreeves.com

To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Plant Drivers
Kent
Salary £10 - £11.50 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@btconnect.com
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable

card. 7am Starts working Monday - Friday with Overtime included. Some contracts may include nights away. To Apply CALL Carl Davis on 01622 664 999.

To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@btconnect.com
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Traffic Management Ops

Kent
Salary £7 - £12 Per Hour
Traffic Management Operatives wanted for ASAP start. Day and night shifts available. Monday to Friday. MUST HOLD Lantra 12 A/B / 1 Day or 12D or NRSW tickets. Also looking for Lantra Supervisors. Role will include working with a crew on high speed roads in the south east. Duties will include lane and road closures, stop and go and light control. Also maintaining road sides and all types of different road maintenance roles. The work will be starting in the Dartford area and covering Area 3 and 4 on Kent and Sussex Motorways. Please call Carl Davis on 01622 664999 for more details.

To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@btconnect.com
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLEANERS AND IRONERS Maidstone

Salary Negotiable
FULL TIME IRONING SUPERVISOR, FULL AND PART TIME CLEANERS AND IRONERS REQUIRED Maidstone area. Driving Licence Essential. Please call Vicki 01732 780935 or e-mail vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre
Gardener
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable

FULL TIME IRONING SUPERVISOR, FULL AND PART TIME CLEANERS AND IRONERS REQUIRED Maidstone area. Driving Licence Essential. Please call Vicki 01732 780935 or e-mail vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLEANERS AND IRONERS Maidstone

Salary Negotiable
FULL TIME IRONING SUPERVISOR FULL AND PART TIME CLEANERS AND IRONERS REQUIRED Maidstone area. Driving Licence Essential. Please call Vicki 01732 780935 or e-mail vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Molly Maid
vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

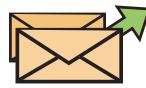
Domestic Trades

Gardener
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
Site Maintenance Technician/ Caretaker 37 hours a week from 11am - 7pm Mondays-Friday
Kent Pay Band 3 - £14,099 - £15,984 Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/ Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis. Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours, should the need arise. The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team. As well as general caretaking duties they will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a good working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is essential. An awareness of swimming pool maintenance would be an advantage. You are welcome to

Customer Service, Call Centre
Care Domestic
Westgate
Salary Negotiable
PART TIME CARE DOMESTIC Required In Westgate. Please call Debbie or Diane. Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

IRONING SUPERVISOR
Maidstone
Salary Negotiable



Jobs by Email

Be the first to receive the latest Kent Jobs

contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date, 6 April 2011. Interviews, 8 April 2011. Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886 Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk Executive Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4QZ Company No 734732.

To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway

Salary £500-£1000+ per month
WELLNESS COACHES
REQUIRED We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available. 01622 671716.

To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Graduate Teacher Programme

Gravesend

Salary £13,500 during training
To apply/more information: St John's Catholic Comprehensive School mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

ART TEACHER

Sevenoaks

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: New School at West Heath (The) personnel@westheathschool.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne

Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

Northfleet

Salary £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST 25 hours per week/term time only • Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17-

£9,574 to £10,531 p.a. To work as part of a team to support the accurate recording, reporting and analysis of pupils attainment data. Educated to at least A Level standard with a strong analytical ability and good knowledge of Excel. ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE Learning Support Assistant 31.25 hours per week (8.30 am to 3.15 pm) Kent Scheme 5 Grade 5 - Points 14-17 £11,968 to £13,164 p.a. To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of students with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs. Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Tel: 01474 831020 The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check. Closing date for applications: 4 April 2011.

To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

students. HLTA qualification desirable (or willingness to achieve HLTA). TEACHING ASSISTANT 31.25 hours per week (8.30 to 3.15 pm) Kent Scheme 4 or 5 dependent on qualifications & experience. To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of pupils with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs. Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Tel: 01474 831020 The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check. Closing date for applications: 4 April 2011.

To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE LSA

Northfleet

Salary £11,968 to £13,164 p.a.
ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE Learning Support Assistant 31.25 hours per week (8.30 am to 3.15 pm) Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 £11,968 to £13,164 p.a. To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of students with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs. Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

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To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Gillingham

Salary Negotiable
Aerospace Tooling Limited Due to an increased order book we are looking for the following personnel: Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Wire Eroder/Spark Eroder Please send C.V to Ray Baigent Email: r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Tel 01634 232316.

To apply/more information: Aerospace Tooling r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wire Eroder/ Spark Eroder

Gillingham

Salary Negotiable
Aerospace Tooling Limited Due to an increased order book we are looking for the following personnel: Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Wire Eroder/Spark Eroder Please send C.V to Ray Baigent Email: r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Tel 01634 232316.

To apply/more information: Aerospace Tooling r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sheet Metal Worker / Welder

Sheerness

Salary £9.00 Per Hour

Description This vacancy is being advertised on behalf of Best Connection who is operating as an employment business. Temporary for 13 weeks leading to permanent. Previous experience in sheet metal work is essential. Must have welding and fabrication experience. Duties are TIG, MIG and ARG welding, bench work and fine tolerance sheet metal work to 0.2mm. Will be required to work on own initiative. Other duties are referring to drawings for bespoke, small and large batch work. How to apply You can apply for this job by telephoning 01622 664999 and asking for Carl Davis.

To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Ashford

Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour
TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT Job Description Summary: • Fitting tyres to alloy wheels • Balancing wheel/tire units • Wrapping finished wheel/tire units • Handling incoming goods • Preparing outgoing goods • Maintaining equipment Must be experienced in tyre fitting, essential hours: 37.5 hours per week (9.00 - 5.30 Mon-Fri) Holiday

units • Wrapping finished wheel/tire units • Handling incoming goods • Preparing outgoing goods • Maintaining equipment Must be experienced in tyre fitting, essential hours: 37.5 hours per week (9.00 - 5.30 Mon-Fri) Holiday

Entitlement: 28 days Salary: £8.50 - £9.50 per hour - negotiable dependant on experience.

Location: Unit 17, Connect 10, Foster Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH For more information please contact: Toby Woods/Gary Matthews Tel: 01233 503006 or email: sales@rimstyle.com

To apply/more information: Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd sales@rimstyle.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway

Salary £500-£1000+ per month WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available. 01622 671716.

To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug 10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug 10

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Ramsgate

Salary Negotiable PART-TIME PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

The successful candidate would ideally have a construction and health & safety background and preferably be familiar with the compiling and writing of Pre Qualification Questionnaires and Select List Applications to be made ready for submitting to strict dead lines, the ability to work on your own initiative will also be required. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. Please apply in writing with a CV to Ray Twyman, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newtoning Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

To apply/more information: Piper Windows ron@piperwindows.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

STORES PERSON

Sevenoaks

Salary Negotiable To apply/more information: LMS Ltd applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Gillingham

Salary Negotiable To apply/more information: Aerospace Tooling r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wire Eroder/ Spark Eroder

Gillingham

Salary Negotiable To apply/more information: Aerospace Tooling r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wire Eroder/ Spark Eroder

Gillingham

Salary Negotiable Aerospace Tooling Limited Due to an increased order book we are looking for the following personnel; Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Wire Eroder/ Spark Eroder Please send C.V to Ray Baigent Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Tel 01634 23216
To apply/more information: Aerospace Tooling r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Forklift Clamp Drivers

Chatham

Salary £6 - £7 per hour Forklift clamp driver required in Chatham. Duties include the loading and unloading of paper reels with the use of the clamp attachment. Movement of stock from different warehouse units and loading stock ready for despatch. Candidates must hold a full Counter Balance Licence with the Clamp attachment.

Working patterns are Monday - Friday hours in shift patterns are 6am - 2pm / 2pm - 10pm / 10pm - 6am. To APPLY PLEASE CALL Carl Davis on 01622 664999.

To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice dtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

Northfleet

Salary £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway

Salary £500-£1000+ per month WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available. 01622 671716.

To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Aylesham

Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
To apply/more information: A & C Pumps Ltd pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Ramsgate

Salary Negotiable EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus. Must have: passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produce/understanding of budgets, stock management Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2. If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion required, please telephone 07973559729.

To apply/more information: Ron ron@piperwindows.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales People

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable To apply/more information: Your Local Business Marketing info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Head Chef & Assistant Chef

Whitstable

Salary Negotiable To apply/more information: Plough (The) theplough.swalecliffe@live.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Office & IT Manager

Ashford

Salary: £23,000- £25,000 Office & IT Manager We are seeking a highly organised and self-motivated Office and IT Manager to run our busy grant-making office. Kent Community Foundation is an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a logical and systematic approach as well as a passion for technology and new media who can lead on our IT strategy. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent communication and customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email admin@kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500.

To apply/more information: admin@kentcf.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Ashford

Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT Job Description Summary: • Fitting tyres to alloy wheels • Balancing wheel/tire units • Wrapping finished wheel/tire units • Handling incoming goods • Preparing outgoing goods • Maintaining equipment Must be experienced in tyre fitting, essential hours: 37.5 hours per week (9.00 - 5.30 Mon-Fri) Holiday

To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

JobsforKent.co.uk

Entitlement: 28 days Salary: £8.50 - £9.50 per hour - negotiable dependant on experience.

Location: Unit 17, Connect 10, Foster Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH For more information please contact: Toby Woods/Gary Matthews Tel: 01233 503006 or email: sales@rimstyle.com

To apply/more information: Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd sales@rimstyle.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Not for profit, Charities

Fund Raisers/Instore Promotion People

Kent

Salary £6.50 PH plus bonus

National Children's Charity

Require Enthusiastic fund raisers/instore promotion people/collectors. To work at venues in the Kent area.

Full/part-time including

weekends. Start £6.50 p.h. plus bonus. Must drive. Please call Sue: 07809 714252.

To apply/more information: Follow Your Dreams Ltd sb@followyourdreams.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health Care Assistants/Days

Sevenoaks

Salary Negotiable

Westbank Care Home Borou

Green require Registered Nurses

Days/Nights/Health Care

Assistants/Days/Full/Part-Time

Permanent/Bank Hours to work

in a 40 bedded nursing home.

In-house training provided.

Please ring for information 01732 780066.

To apply/more information: Westbank Care Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Care Workers

Medway

Salary Negotiable

Care Workers Rochester, Gillingham, Strood, Walderslade, Twydall, Lordswood • Evening working hours • Weekend working hours • Full training to NVQ Level 2 • 28 days of paid annual leave (pro rata) • No previous experience necessary

• Must have good written and spoken English. London Care PLC is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and people with disabilities living in their own homes. Contact Jill or Jak, Monday to Friday on 01634 822 928 or email amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk

London Care PLC is an Equal Opportunities Employer www.londoncare.co.uk

To apply/more information: London Care PLC amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Support Workers

TONBRIDGE, HILDEBOROUGH & SEVENOAKS

Salary £8.25 to £13.00 per hour

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED FOR AN EXPANDING CARE AGENCY.

FULL-TIME SHIFTS AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE,

HILDEBOROUGH & SEVENOAKS

Self Employed basis only Shift starts at 7am£8.25 to £13.00 per hour You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own Must have own car and phone/Uniform provided Full Training programme available

Experience preferred but not essential All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check

CALL ELAINE: JULIA 011892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW

www.terrablu.co.uk

An Investor in People Employer.

To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd emma.foord@terrablu.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Sales People

Canterbury



Is your CV up to date?

take advantage of a free online CV review

Day & Night Flexi carers

Cliftonville
Salary Negotiable
Montague Court, Cliftonville requires a SENIOR CAREER Must have NVQ2 or above. Also Day & Night Flexi carers. Call Alan or Jill on 01843 220090.
To apply/more information: Quality & Care applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Dental Nurse

Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
Full Time Dental Nurse Required in Whitstable. Experience preferred, but training provided for the right candidate. Knowledge of computers preferred. For further information, contact: 07540 691677. Or send CV to acycliffe@gmail.com
To apply/more information: Whitstable Dental Surgery acycliffe@gmail.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Other

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Distributors Wanted. Run your own business without the usual risks... and help people save money! choose your own hours full training and support up-front bonuses earn a second income on-going commission no stock to carry find out more! Call: 0800 781 2433 www.minibills.co.uk
To apply/more information: Utility Warehouse Quoting Job Ref: KOS

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month WELLNESS COACHES REQUIRED We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available. 01622 671716.
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Care Workers

Medway
Salary Negotiable
Care Workers Rochester, Gillingham, Strood, Walderslade, Twydall, Lordswell • Evening working hours • Bedside working hours • Full training to NVQ Level 2 • 28 days of paid annual leave (pro rata) • No previous experience necessary • Must have good written and spoken English. London Care PLC is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and people with disabilities living in their own homes. Contact Jill or Jak, Monday to Friday, on 01634 828 928 or email amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk London Care PLC is an Equal Opportunities Employer www.londoncare.co.uk
To apply/more information: London Care PLC amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians

Pembury
Salary Negotiable
Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians to operate in Kent & Sussex. Full CI Driving Licence and ACOPS essential. Loft Insulation Installers also required. Permanent positions offered by construction company based in Pembury established 50 years. Contact David on 01892 825564 or email david@skinnerandreeves.com

To apply/more information: Skinner & Reeves john@skinnerandreeves.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

B2B Media Sales
Ashford Based
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: ARCHANT J KOS MEDIA christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Telephone Sales Executive

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
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To apply/more information: ARCHANT J KOS MEDIA christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Salary Dependant on To apply/more information:

Northfleet School for Girls info@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Sevenoaks

Salary Negotiable

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Salary Negotiable
Montague Court, Cliftonville requires a SENIOR CAREER Must have NVQ2 or above. Also Day & Night Flexi carers. Call Alan or Jill on 01843 220090.

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To apply/more information: New School at West Heath (The) personnel@westheathschool.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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To apply/more information: Utility Warehouse johnhandsheila@minibills.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: KOS

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Canterbury

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information: Your Local Business Marketing info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Telephone Sales Executive

Ashford

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To apply/more information: ARCHANT J KOS MEDIA applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells

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To apply/more information: Invicta Motors Quoting Job Ref: kos

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To apply/more information: Follow Your Dreams Ltd sue@followyourdreams.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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Sevenoaks

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To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR206, MR214, MR204, MR213, MR212 AND MR210

IN THE PARISH OF STANSTED

(Public Footpaths MR206, MR214, MR204, MR213, MR212 and MR210 in the Parish of Stansted)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close the following Footpaths:-

MR206 at (National Grid Reference) NGR TQ 611 619

MR214 at NGR TQ 609 616

MR204 at NGR TQ 607 612

MR213 at NGR TQ 605 611

MR212 at NGR TQ 601 611

MR210 at NGR TQ 601 611

from the 11th April 2011

The routes are to be closed because works to lay a water pipeline are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The paths will be closed until such time as the work is completed or for a maximum of six months, whichever is the sooner. It is expected that each path will only be closed for 1 month while work is being carried out.

The alternative routes are Stansted Hill, Tumblefield Road and Plaxdale Green Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snodin Tel: 01732 872829 (6).

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC138 (PART) CRANBROOK)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WC138 which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west-south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3978 (Point B).

Between Points A-B on the Order Plan; and will add a new length of public footpath numbered WC138 with a width of 2.5 metres which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west-south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3979 (Point C). Between Points A-B on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned to construct a new school hall and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is along the footway of The Street to the Church gate and then along Public Footpath WC255 to the junction with WC256 (NGR TQ 813 409) and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby Tel. 01732 872829 x8

Countryside Access Service

Kent County Council

Invicta House

Maidstone

Kent

ME14 1XX

Dated: 26th March 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND ADJACENT TO ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 31 May 2011 at 10.00am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME4 1XQ.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Network Performance of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

WATER LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of BT ducting works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Sturry, on or after 16 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A28 Mill Road and Fordwich Road.

It is planned that the works will be carried out on Saturday 16 April and Sunday 17 April, with a further closure on Monday 18 April after 2.00 pm to reinstate the road surface.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

FULBERT ROAD & ROKESLEY ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fulbert Road & Rokesley Road, Dover, on or after 13 April 2011 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The entire lengths of each road will be closed in rolling sections, as advised and signed on site.

Access will be maintained from either Fulbert Road or Rokesley Road as signed locally, with other access maintained whenever it is safe to do so.

MARINE PARADE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Dover, on or after 14 April 2011 for up to 6 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling sections between Townwall Street and Waterloo Crescent.

The alternative route is via A20 Townwall Street, Snargate Street, Prince of Wales Roundabout to Union Street, Esplanade and Waterloo Crescent.

WILLOW ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to construct a new kerb build-out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Willow Road, Great Mongeham, on or after 11 April 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Deal Road and Northbourne Road.

The alternative route is via Deal Road, The Street and Northbourne Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

HENLEY STREET, LUDDESDOWNE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Henley Street, Luddesdowne for the entire length.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the

appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Sole Street, The Street Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Luddesdowne Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate soak away cleansing.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)**(WAITING RESTRICTION ORDER (VARIATION NO 6) ORDER 2010**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(a) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2) and 4 (i) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act: The Order has the following effect

1. to introduce "no waiting at any time" (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of roads:-

Boughton Lane, Cripple Street and Shernolds.

2. to introduce no loading/unloading on the northern side of Cripple Street from the junction with (A229) Loose Road to the junction with Walmford Gardens.

The Order was sealed on 22 March 2011 and will come into force 28 March 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices at Maidstone Borough Council and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

STATION ROAD & BROCA ROAD, HEVER - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road & Brocas Road, Hever between Brocas Farm and road leading to Hever Station.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12th April 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Hartfield Road, Lydens Lane, New House Farm Road and Hever Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

WATERY LANE, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Watery Lane, Sevenoaks between under Railway Bridge and its junction with Honeypot Lane.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 6 weeks.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Honeypot Lane, Noah's Ark, High Street and Heaverham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate repair to damaged wall.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction: Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 14.00 – 20.00 hours.

Road Name: Scratches Lane, West Kingsdown. Extent: From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.

Diversion: A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 14.00 – 20.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.

Restriction: 30mph Speed Limit.

Road Name: A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.

Extent: Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farnham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.

Restriction: Suspend Cycle Lane Order.

Road Name: A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.

Extent 1: Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratches Lane.

Extent 2: Between Scratches Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.

Diversion: Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.

Restriction: No Right Turn.

1: Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

2: Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

Dates: 3rd April, 25th April, 24th July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October and 9th October 2011.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116**STOPPING UP OF LAND AT LOWER SANDGATE ROAD, FOLKESTONE.**

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 31 May 2011 at 10am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Lower Sandgate Road, Folkestone as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ during normal opening times.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Nicolle Davis of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

BEACHBOROUGH, NEWINGTON, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of tree surgery works to remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone on or after 17 April 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to 'Coombe Farm' and the entrance to 'Little Orchard'. There will be no access for through traffic between Folkestone and Etchinghill.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, M20 between junctions 12 & 13, (non-motorway traffic via B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road and Cherry Garden Avenue) A20, A260 Spittiford Way, Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road, Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road, Derringstone Hill, Elham Valley Road and Canterbury Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

DAWES ROAD, DUNKIRK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water and gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting

through traffic on Dawes Road, Dunkirk, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 9 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Staplestreet Road and Stoney Road.

The alternative route is via Staplestreet Road, Canterbury Road, Boughton Hill, Canterbury Road and Courtenay Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

PARAGON STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Paragon Street, Ramsgate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 4.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Royal Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Paragon Street will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Margate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 25 weeks or until the works have been completed.

DANE HILL, MARGATE will be closed at the junction with Dane Road, from 28 March for up to 3 weeks. The alternative route is via King Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square and Northdown Road.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access only.

KING STREET, MARGATE will be closed between the junctions with Dane Road and Hawley Street. From 18 April 2011 for up to 10 weeks.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, Union Crescent and Hawley Street.

DANE HILL, MARGATE – will be closed for its entire length, from 27 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks. The alternative route is as shown above, with the One-way Traffic Order suspended to allow access only.

DANE HILL GROVE, MARGATE will be closed for its entire length, from 18 July 2011 for up to 2 weeks. There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and businesses and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011/12**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th April 2011 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6am to 2pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill. The alternative route for Castle Way, Leybourne will be via Oxley Shaw Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Royal Wedding street party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.





Driving

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Citroën DS3 Racing ahead

First Drive

by
IAIN DOOLEY

Citroën DS3 Racing

WHEN so many car makers try their hardest to create fake wood and carbon fibre trim, it's a rare treat to see the real thing in anything other than a mega-bucks supercar.

Citroën's DS3 Racing is one such rarity – and more than just that reason. A high-profile nod to its maker's world rally programme – star driver Sébastien Loeb's company car is a competition-prepped DS3 – the road-going Racing sports real carbon fibre trim inside and out.

It also boasts a significant power hike over the regular DS3, however that's a fair trade-off for being a limited edition car. Citroën has planned for just 2,000 DS3 Racing models, with 200 earmarked for

the UK. At least the car's 204 horsepower motor is some consolation.

Usually special editions come with the odd trinket or two in a feeble attempt to justify their limited-run status. Citroën has done the decent thing with its DS3 Racing, though. Along with the aforementioned carbon trim, the car's 1.6-litre turbo motor's output has leapt from an already reasonable 150 horsepower to that 204bhp hot hatch-baiting figure.

Then there's the figure-hugging sports seats, tweaked and more audible exhaust system, increased turbocharger boost, recalibrated suspension settings, wider front and rear track, lower ride height and uprated brakes. Not just a rebadged car with fancy trim, then.

Tweaks

Citroën would be offended if you thought its 'Racing' competition division is responsible for the various tweaks. It even has a hand in the assembly process, which explains the limited nature of the car's life – man can only work so fast and don't forget, the guys at Citroën Racing have another day job: preparing the cars for the French firm's multi-championship winning rally team.

With all that in mind, the DS3 Racing understandably costs a little more than its

DS3 sibling, although hopefully you can see that it's money well spent. Factor in the ability to choose between black with an orange roof or white with a black roof, plus the chance to customise the exterior and interior with suitably racy-looking graphics, and it's clear this is not a car for shrinking violets.

On the road it's more of a polished all-rounder than its on-paper, low-volume, high-performance credentials suggest. The various suspension, track and damping changes do much to enhance the car's stability when the front wheels are faced with 204 and not 150 horsepower.

Drive the DS3 Racing quickly and its ability to cover ground competently and efficiently isn't in question. Make no mistake, this is a substantial power hike and one that's immediately noticeable on the road. Ride comfort is surprisingly good – even on potholed roads – and it changes direction with little fuss.

Fortunately for the purists, Citroën resisted to the temptation of fitting its semi-auto paddleshift gearbox. The DS3 Racing's slick six-speed manual gearbox is an excellent companion. The car's uprated brakes are also a welcome addition. Although the car's exhaust note is more prominent, it's still easy to barrel up to corners faster than you'd planned. Thank

goodness for those beefy Brembo stoppers.

Still, the upside to this near-stealth approach to back-road performance motoring is that the car is super-refined on the urban commute and the motorway. The Racing variant can be used every day despite looking like it's just been signed off by a crazy high-performance tuning company.

And while you're sitting in the morning's stop-go traffic, at least you can play with the car's high-spec audio unit, fiddle with the air-con or Bluetooth phone connection and listen to music from your connected MP3 player.

Like with so many special edition, limited-run cars, the decision to buy or not to buy is a personal one. The regular DS3 is a fine car – stylish, refined, capable – and has done wonders for Citroën's brand image. The DS3 Racing successfully builds on those attributes.

The motorsport angle isn't some hollow marketing fluff, either. The department behind the rally cars had direct input into the road car and is part of the assembly process, which is something genuine enthusiasts can relate to. So, not only does the DS3 Racing look the part it can act it, too.



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Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v VTX 08/08 Reg 10000 Miles  Only £7,995	Citroen C4 Grand Picasso VTR+ 1.6HDi 07/07 Reg 25000 Miles  Only £10,495	Fiat 500 1.2 pop Auto 09/09 24000 Miles  Only £8,495	Fiat 500 1.2 Sport 09/09 Reg 18000 Miles  Only £8,995	Peugeot 107 Urban 5dr 2-Tron 10/10 Reg 800 miles  Only £7,995	Peugeot 308 SW 1.6 VTi S 09/09 Reg 7835 Miles  Only £9,795

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Fiat 500 TwinAir Pop	36 Monthly Payments	£149
OTR Price	£10,065	Optional Final Payment (inc option fee of £285) £4,162
Fiat Deposit Contribution	£750	Total Amount Payable By Customer £10,526
Customer Deposit	£1,000	Excess Mileage Charge over 10,000 p.a. 6p per mile
Balance Financed	£9,115	TYPICAL 2.0% APR



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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO₂ emissions in Europe†. Fiat 500 TwinAir, the lowest CO₂ emission petrol car engine in the world*. Fuel consumption for Fiat 500 TwinAir: mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions: Urban 57.6 (4.9) Extra Urban 76.3 (3.7) Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ emissions 95 g/km. Terms & Conditions apply. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (10,000 in this example) and being in good condition. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, P0 Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. January to March offer. Fiat Deposit Contribution available on Fiat 500 models, and is only available in conjunction with Fiat i-Deal Low Cost. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on Volume-weighted average CO₂ emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, 1st half 2010. *According to NEDC standard.

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Peugeot opens up order books for diesel hybrid

FRENCH carmaker Peugeot is now taking orders for its 3008 Hybrid4 – claimed to be the world's first full diesel hybrid car.

First deliveries in October will be of a £29,995 Limited Edition model – just 35 vehicles will be available in the UK.

The Hybrid4 combines a fuel-efficient 2.0-litre HDi 163bhp diesel engine and a 37bhp electric motor – offering out-of-town fuel consumption of 74.4 mpg, and CO2 emissions of 99g/km.

This special version also comes with tinted headlamps and integral chrome LED daylight running lights, a Pearl White body colour and chrome door handles.

Internally, exclusive touches include two-tone leather trim, all-leather facia and numbered aluminium plate on the centre console. A full-length panoramic glass roof and front parking sensors complete a luxury spec.

The overall 3008 Hybrid4 range will start at £26,600.

Proton reduces Satria Neo prices



JAGUAR has unveiled its most potent production car ever – the all-new XKR-S.

It has an uprated supercharged V8 engine, overhauled suspension and a new aerodynamically-driven design, to make it the quickest Jag ever but also the lowest CO2 emitter in its class (300g/km) despite generating 550bhp and offering a top speed of 186mph and 0-60mph in 4.2 seconds.

Bespoke suspension changes to the front and rear are said to improve precision, control and driver appeal, while a reprogrammed Adaptive Dynamics system allows the enthusiastic driver to explore the full range of handling.

PROTON has slashed prices for its ageing yet stylish Satria Neo sporting hatchback – buyers can save a staggering £1,700 now that the range starts at £8,495.

The Satria Neo features electric windows, reverse parking sensors and rear spoiler all as standard, plus a centre-mounted exhaust and race-inspired bucket seats, ABS and twin airbags.

Even the flagship 1.6 Sport auto is a snip at £10,295, down from £11,995.

Proton's UK chief, Simon Park, said: "We are confident that this price revision will prove popular with motorists. Both stylish and sporty thanks to its Lotus ride and handling, the Satria Neo is eye catching on the road and is fantastic to drive."

Most powerful post production cat ever



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Audi A1 3dr 1.6 TDi Sport 5,000 miles per annum*
Solutions Representative example.

Duration	25 months	Total Amount Payable	£18,467.98
24 Monthly Payments of	£199.00	Acceptance Fee*	£125.00
Customer Deposit	£1775.00	Option to Purchase Fee**	£60.00
Cash Price	£16,320.00	Representative APR	8.1% APR
Amount of Credit	£14,545.00	Interest Rate (Fixed)	7.34%
Optional Final Payment	£11,856.98		



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Tonbridge
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Tel: 0845 128 6490
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Official fuel consumption figures for the A1 range in mpg (l/100km) from: Urban 41.5 (6.8) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3) – 70.6 (4.0). CO₂ emissions: 105 – 124g/km.

Retail sales only. *Payable within first payment. **Payable with optional final payment. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. *Excess mileage applies. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s from participating Audi Centres only (subject to availability) for vehicles ordered before 30th June 2011 and delivered before 31st July 2011. Audi Finance, Freepost Audi Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Prices quoted and examples shown correct at time of going to print (March 2011) and do not take into account any variation to government taxes or charges arising after the date of publication. Vehicles delivered in 2011 will be subject to VAT at 20%. Model used for illustration purposes only and may differ from actual model.

Revolutionary Lexus breaks cover quietly in the county

by
STEVE LOADER

LEXUS dealers in Kent have celebrated the 'quiet revolution' – the arrival of the Japanese premium brand's all-new CT200h executive hatchback hybrid.

The car is being touted as a mould-breaker for its target sector, where it can attack the BMW 1-Series, Audi A3 and up-spec VW Golf and even niggle at the bigger BMW 3-Series and its rivals by offering an economical and highly attractive tax-efficient solution for company car user choosers.

The secret is the petrol-electric hybrid system and the kind of dynamic rear-wheel drive handling experience that its everyday front-driven Toyota hybrid sibling, the Prius, cannot match.

Compact

It also helps that the marketing drive for this compact model is being spearheaded by compact superstar Kylie Minogue – usually pictured in the Lexus ads holding a finger to her lips to emphasise the 'Join the quiet revolution' strapline.

With a powertrain that can run in near silent electric mode, the CT200h certainly



offers a revolutionary option for executive car buyers.

It is also stamped with all the Lexus hallmarks: exemplary build quality, loads of standard kit and a real premium feel to the interior, and it is no wonder that there was genuine enthusiasm at the launch weekend held by Motorline Group's two Kent dealers,

Lexus Canterbury and Lexus Tunbridge Wells.

Some 200 people attended the event at Canterbury, where centre manager Paul Stapylton expected the CT200h to put Lexus back on the map with buyers – the brand's volumes have suffered against German rivals during the recession.

"This car is going to bring back the volume



ENTHUSIASM: Launch weekend was well attended, with around 200 visitors to Lexus Canterbury. Centre manager Paul Stapylton (inset) said he expected the CT200h (above) to put Lexus back on the map with buyers

for Lexus and we fully expect to struggle to match demand with supply," he said.

Paul, who recently took over the post at the Broad Oak Road site after being based at Motorline's nearby Renault centre, added: "This is also a really exciting time to be involved with Lexus, which is pushing the boundaries back on quality and technology."

JOIN THE QUIET REVOLUTION

THE NEW CT 200h

The Lexus CT 200h is leading a quiet revolution. Its sophisticated full hybrid system creates near-silent driving in electric mode, with class-leading low emissions and superb fuel efficiency. It delivers a truly rewarding driving experience, with smooth acceleration and agile handling.

Representative example

Model	CT 200h SE-I
35 Monthly payments	£299.00
Cash price	£23,485.00
Representative 9.9% APR†	
Customer deposit	£5,880.39
Amount of credit	£17,604.61
Guaranteed Future Value/ optional final payment	£11,278.80
Total amount payable	£27,624.19
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.10%
Term	36 months

Lexus Canterbury 01227 455553

Lexus Tunbridge Wells 01892 700400

LEXUS
Connect

LEXUS
The pursuit of perfection



CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on all new retail CT 200h SE-I, when registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres, valid until 31 March 2011. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Vehicle on sale from March 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 689 mpg (4.1L/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0L/100km), combined 689 mpg (4.1L/100km). CO₂ emissions combined 94 g/km.

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2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£19,495
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 4000 miles.....	£17,995
2010 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles.....	£17,995
2010 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£17,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 500 miles.....	£15,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles.....	£15,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£14,995
2010 (60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles.....	£13,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SR1 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1600 miles.....	£13,995
2010 (60) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIMBUS GREY, 999 miles.....	£12,995
2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles.....	£12,995
2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles.....	£11,995
2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£10,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995
2010 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,495
2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles.....	£6,495
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£8,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£8,495
2010 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles.....	£6,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles.....	£5,495

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles.....	£23,995
2009 (09) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles.....	£19,495
2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£18,995
2009 (09) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles.....	£9,495
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....	£9,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVELEGIE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,995

NEW FIESTA

2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles.....	£12,995
2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£11,995
2007 (57) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£8,995
2007 (57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£6,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£10,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£8,495
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, MOONDUST SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£5,995
2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£6,495

FOCUS ESTATES

2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1250 miles.....	£9,495
2007 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£6,495

RENAULT SCENIC

2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£16,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£8,995
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£8,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 10000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£6,995

RENAULT

2010 (57) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles.....	£11,995
2010 (60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995
2007 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£9,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles.....	£8,995
2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5STR MPV AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (08) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2005 (05) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles.....	£3,995

CHEVROLET

2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (06) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£4,995
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles.....	£4,495
2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles.....	£4,495

HYUNDAI

2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (58) HYUNDAI MATRIX GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles.....	£6,495
2008 (58) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles.....	£5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£5,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£5,995
2004 (54) HYUNDAI GETZ GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£4,495

KIA

2009 (09) KIA CEE'D GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (09) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles.....	£6,995

DAIHATSU

2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£5,995

BMW

2009 (59) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles.....	£19,495
2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£18,995
2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 318i M SPORT TOURING ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£16,995

FIAT

2010 (10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles.....	£9,495
2010 (10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,495
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£7,495
2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,495

CITROEN

2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles.....	£6,495
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995
2010 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995

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2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995

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10 10 Vauxhall Agila
1.2 16V Club
A/C 5dr

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Barnes Price £7795 Barnes Saving £700

10 10 Vauxhall Astra
1.4 16V
Exclusive 5dr

9,000 miles,

Was £11995

Barnes Price £10995 Barnes Saving £1000

09 59 Vauxhall Astra
1.8 VVT
Design 5dr

23,000 miles,

Was £9995

Barnes Price £9295 Barnes Saving £700

09 09 Vauxhall
Insignia 2.0
SRI CDTI 5dr

11,000 miles,

Was £15295

Barnes Price £14395 Barnes Saving £900

09 59 Vauxhall
Meriva 1.6 16V
Design 5dr

23,000 miles,

Was £9995

Barnes Price £9295 Barnes Saving £700

09 09 Vauxhall Tigra
1.4 Exclusive
Coupe Roadster

21,000 miles,

Was £9495

Barnes Price £8495 Barnes Saving £1000

10 60 Vauxhall
Corsa 1.2 16V
Energy 3dr

5,000 miles,

Was £9495

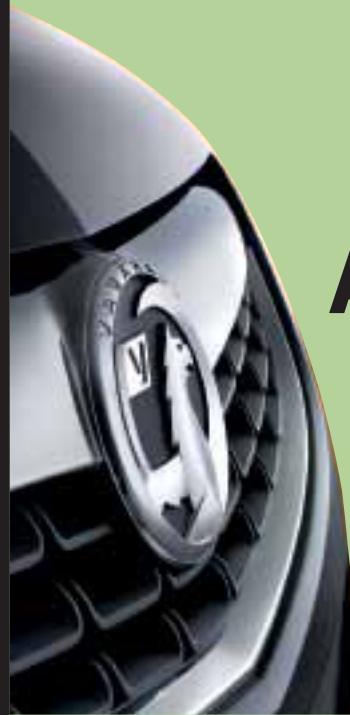
Barnes Price £8795 Barnes Saving £700

10 60 Vauxhall
Corsa 1.2 16V
Energy 5dr

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Barnes Price £9295 Barnes Saving £700

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24 HR PRICE

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After swappage allowance

Starts 12pm Friday 25th March

OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT

Ends 12pm Saturday 26th March

Representative Example

Cash Price	Deposit	Amount of Credit	Interest Charges	Doc & Option fee	60 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable	Borrowing Rate	Representative APR
£8365	£99	£8266	£1649	£298	£165.25	£10312	3.99%	9.0%APR

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1.4L 5dr
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WAS

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24 HR PRICE

£12495

SAVE

£1500

After swappage allowance

Starts 12pm Friday 25th March

OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT

Ends 12pm Saturday 26th March

Starts 12pm Friday 25th March
Ends 12pm Saturday 26th March

OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT



VAUXHALL

F.G. Barnes (Maidstone) Ltd
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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Range.
Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions: 324-94g/km.

*All prices based on Vauxhall Swappage scheme and apply to Swappage customers only. Please ask for details. Finance subject to status. Terms & conditions apply. Minimum swappage part exchange allowance for a brand new Corsa £300 and minimum swappage part exchange allowance for a brand new Astra £500. Offers are available for registrations between 04/01/11 and 31/03/11 subject to availability and first registered keeper. 100,000 miles limit. Terms and conditions apply. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. The Network Q Lifetime Warranty is for used Vauxhall passenger cars registered to second owner only that are under 12 months old and have covered less than 30,000 miles from date of first registration. The Lifetime Warranty excludes wear & tear and serviceable items. For the first 60,000 miles or 3 years (whichever comes first) the vehicle must be serviced at any repairer in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. Subsequent to the 60,000 miles or 3 years (whichever comes first), the vehicle must be serviced by a Vauxhall authorised repairer. Annual check also required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer available to Network Q Lifetime Warranty cars (this offer does not apply to car derived vans) from 6th Jan 2011. For more information contact your local Network Q Retailer or visit. Calls may be recorded for training & quality purposes. *Subject to terms and conditions.

DrivingReview

by
STEVE LOADER**Audi A1**

FOR a small car, much is riding on the newly-arrived Audi A1.

Firstly, it marks the debut of the A1 model number and must be 'A1' to counter any perceptions that a downsized Audi dilutes premium qualities the German brand has worked so hard to create.

Secondly, the car must battle the retro appeal of BMW's hugely popular Mini and the temptingly cheaper Fiat 500. Audi has no appropriate retro small car heritage to call upon, but it would have been nice perhaps to see more design cues from the brand's TT coupe transferred to the new baby, but the A1's styling does at least leave no doubt about who makes it.

It also has a stunning cabin, with lots of aeronautical design features such as the jet intake air vents and chunky knobs. Quality is both visual and tangible with top-notch materials adding to Audi's claim to have "shrink-wrapped everything it stands for" to create the A1.

And that goes for the on-road experience too, because the A1 feels every bit as solid and refined as its bigger sisters.

It is also practical, with the rear hatch opening to a decent boot, while slight headroom restriction from the raked rear roofline is more than compensated by decent kneeroom – a point not lost on buyers weighing the A1 against the Mini.

Remember too that many small cars are bought as a family runabout and now that kids must use booster seats – seemingly, until they go to university – a lack of kneeroom can affect them as much as adults.

Shrink-wrapped A1 has preserved Audi quality



On the other hand, many premium brand or highly-specified small cars are bought to show-off and there are pros and cons here for the A1.

Prices start from an attractive £13,420, but the A1 really does need the kit – good alloys, good paint job, etc – to look the part. Even that customisation king, the Mini – which pioneered how to sell a car to a customer and

then so much more on top – looks great with just a few extras.

In many ways, the Fiat 500 is even more challenging: it's cheaper anyway and a relatively modest spend transforms it into a designer baby car. However, the Fiat's ownership experience, quality and comfort highlights the old adage "you get what you pay for".

Which leaves the A1 going head to head with the Mini, where it wins on practicality even if it loses out on retro appeal.

It also offers a good driving experience judging by our 121bhp 1.4TFSI Sport test car, fitted with Audi's S Tronic version of the excellent VW Group twin-clutch gearbox, which really can be driven as a manual as well as an auto

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the 308 range: Urban 49.6–26.4 (5.7–10.7), Extra Urban 70.6–46.31 (4.1–6.1), Combined 68.9–36.6 (4.7–7.7) and CO₂ 179–124. For the 207 range: Urban 61.4–27.4 (4.6–10.3), Extra Urban 85.6–49.6 (3.3–5.7), Combined 74.3–38.2 (3.8–7.4) and CO₂ 171–99.

*A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Personal Lease contract examples. 308 Envy HDi 92 3dr initial rental £1595, optional final rental of £5205, 46 monthly rentals payable. 207 Envy HDi 70 3dr initial rental £795, optional final rental of £4206, 46 monthly rentals payable. If you choose to pay off the optional final rental at the end of contract, you can keep the car but will not own it – you will pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals. Excess mileage charges may apply. Offer available on vehicles ordered and registered by 31st March 2011. Model Exclusions apply.



though it adds nearly £1,500 to the cost of the test model (£17,120).

However, this extra makes the little Audi a good upmarket urban runabout for weekdays as well as a refined and stylish car to get away in at weekends – a perfect solution for young professionals.

Handling is top notch; this is a sure-footed little car and manual mode means it can be driven hard using the shift or wheel-mounted paddles, until the point when you meet traffic and

simply knock the selector across into auto.

Turbocharging is seamless and the power output would seem about right for this car, though wealthy hooligans can opt for the scorching 185ps (183bhp) TFSI S Line S Tronic (£20,705).

The brilliance of our particular version though is that, despite its sportiness, it should average around 55mpg, while CO2 emissions of 119g/km CO2 mean an escape from road tax in year one and a modest £30/year thereafter – impressive for a turbocharged hot hatch.



Driving Portfolio

AUDI A1 1.4TFSI SPORT S TRONIC £17,120

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero year one)
Best rival	BMW Mini

The Verdict



DON'T LIKE:

the price – the A1's younger targets might prefer the more affordable and retro Fiat 500



NOT SURE:

the A1 can really match the Mini and Fiat 500 for retro appeal



REALLY LIKE:

how Audi has distilled the essence of its premium branding into a small and stylish car

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GENERAL CARS

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2005 VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB AUTOMATIC, 1.8, black, 5dr, hatch, CD radio, only 41,000, lovely condition, alloys, A/C, compare this price!	£4,995 £4,495
2003 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2.7 XL7 Manual, silver, 66k, 1 owner from new	£4,495 £3,995
2004 PEUGEOT 607 4 door saloon, 2.0 HDi Diesel, silver, luxury & economy only	£3,995 £3,495
2002 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER CLASSIC, immaculate silver, manual 2.0, all extras, incl alloys, CD Radio, PAS, etc, etc	£2,495
2001 ROVER 75 CDT TOURER ESTATE DIESEL (BMW engine model) silver, manual, new pirelli P60 tyres all round	£2,495
2001 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec, 5 dr, alloys, 82k, manual, CD, Met blue taxed until end July 11, new MOT	£2,395
2002 Peugeot 206 1.4 LX 2 dr hatchback, low tax and insurance model, Silver, s/roof, pas, C/L, etc, etc	£1,995
2001 MG ZR 1.8 VVT, 5 dr, silver, body kit, alloys, luxury black/blue leather sports trim, 80k, manual	£1,995
2002 ROVER 45 1.6 5 dr hatchback, low mileage, £1,995 Manual, taxed and MOT'd, E/W, PAS, etc, etc	£1,795
1999 VW GOLF 1.6 SE 5 SP MANUAL, green, 5 dr hatch, e/w, PAS, A/C with 1 year MOT + 6 mths tax	£1,995 £1,795
2001 CITROEN SAXO VTR, 3 door sports hatchback, metallic red, all usual electric extras, tax and MoT, Lovely condition	£1,995 £1,795
2001 NISSAN ALMERA Activ, 1.5 3 dr hatch in met blue, immaculate condition, tax and test, alloys, CD, £1,495	
2001 HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.5 CDX 5 dr hatchback, Silver, manual, all extras, e/w, pas, c/l, etc £1,495 £1,195	

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2001 MGTF 1.8 Manual, silver with black hood, CD Radio, alloys, 68k	£1,995

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2001 VAUXHALL OMEGA 2.2 AUTO, silver, 4 door, alloys, tax & mot	£1,795
1999 CHRYSLER VOYAGER 3.3 petrol 7 seat MPV, long tax and MOT, all leather seats, all usual luxury refinements	£1,495
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1995 BMW 528 2 dr coupe, manual, blue, alloys, tax and test	£895
1997 TOYOTA CARINA E, 5 door hatch, blue, manual	£795
1999 FORD MONDEO 2.0Si 5 dr hatchback, silver, manual, MOT, long tax and MOT	£695
1995 VW POLO 1.4L 5 dr hatchback, red, T & T, long tax and MOT	£695
1999 CITROEN XSARA STATESIDE 5 dr hatchback, blue, long tax and MOT, many bills, low mileage,	£695
1996 FORD ESCORT 1.4LX 5 dr hatchback, blue, long tax and MOT, insurance model,	£495

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04 04	PEUGEOT 307CC CABRIOLET 2.0.	Electric folding roof, power steering, anti-lock brakes, remote central locking, electric windows, electric heated folding mirrors, automatic wipers, automatic headlights, cruise control, electrochromic rear view mirror, climate control, tiptronic gearbox with sports and snow modes, electronic stability program (ESP), dash-mounted 5-disc radio CD player, Peugeot satellite navigation with inbuilt phone and onboard computer, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, rear LED lights, only 58,661 miles, finished in metallic blue and complimented with full cream leather	£6,295
04 04	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 TWIST.	Power steering, air conditioning, central locking, electric windows, electric heated mirrors, anti-lock brakes, alloy wheels, folding rear seat, rear wash wipe, finished in metallic blue, only 17,843 miles	£5,695

03 53	VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 1.6 FSI S 7 SEATER.	Power steering, anti-lock brakes, air conditioning, front electric windows, electric heated mirrors, remote central locking, front and curtain airbags, floor folding rear seats, only 56,153 miles, finished in metallic grey	£4,995
05 05	CITROEN C3 1.4 SX 5 DOOR.	Power steering, anti-lock brakes, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, radio CD player, front fog lights, drive and passenger airbags, only 50,045 miles, finished in metallic blue	£4,695

MANUALS

06 56	MINI COOPER 1.6 (CHILLI PACK) PRESENTED IN RED WITH UNION JACK ROOF & MIRRORS.	A fantastic opportunity to own a Mini Cooper with high specification, only 32,000 miles from new, complete with power steering, air conditioning, remote central locking, half leather seats, electric windows, electric door mirrors, anti-lock brakes with cornering brake control, sports suspension, alloy wheels, chrome door handles and grille, currently in our showroom waiting for a new owner	£8,495
10 10	RENAULT TWINGO FREEWAY 3 DOOR. VERY LOW MILEAGE.	power steering, remote central locking, electric windows, radio CD player, finished in metallic black, anti-lock brakes, only 1,800 miles from new	£6,495

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04 04	TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 T3 3 DOOR.	Power steering, remote central locking, electric windows, radio CD player, anti-lock brakes, internally adjustable mirrors, split folding rear seats, rear wash wipe, finished in metallic black, low tax and insurance, only 18,713 miles	£4,995
03 03	VW GOLF 1.6 MATCH 5 DOOR.	Power steering, anti-lock brakes, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, electric heated mirrors, radio CD player, ESP, folding rear seats, rear wash wipe, only 57,312 miles, finished in metallic black	£4,995

04 04	SEAT LEON S 1.6 16V 5 DOOR.	Power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio CD player, alloy wheels, split folding rear seats, rear wash wipe, full service history, two owners, anti-lock brakes, finished in metallic silver, only 49,030 miles	£4,495
03 52	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 5 DOOR.	Power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, radio CD player, folding rear seats, rear wash wipe, anti-lock brakes, only 62,847 miles, finished in metallic silver	£2,695

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Investment bonds: Too good to be true?

Q Do you think the John Lewis savings bond will be a good investment? I am considering investing £1,000 for five years at 6.5pc as this is a far better interest rate than that offered by any of the banks.

A Unless you invested without waiting for my answer, I am afraid you have missed the boat. The department store group had planned to keep its investment offer open for a month, but closed it after just 11 days when money flooded in and the company raised all of the £50m it wanted. I will answer your question, though, because there are similar bonds on the market. Yes, this was a good investment, because I believe John Lewis is a safe company. This is important, since bonds issued by companies are not the same as bank accounts. They are just IOUs, and if the company turns out not to be safe, there is no compensation scheme to come to the rescue. And remember, bonds are a stock market investment, so their value can fall. For all these reasons, unless you know exactly what you are doing and accept the risks, it might be a good idea to avoid bonds issued by a single company. Instead, consider a fund that spreads your money across a number of bonds from different companies to reduce the risks. The Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund (020 7399 0399) holds more than 80 different bonds, with just over 60pc of the fund's money going into UK companies such as Nationwide, Standard Life and Bupa. It yields about 7.2pc. Or take a look at the Aberdeen Corporate Bond Income Fund (0845 300 2890). It puts its money into 140 different bonds, with less emphasis on the financial sector than Rathbone. The yield is 5.36pc. Because these are stock market investments, you can also buy them through a broker, an advisor or a bank's investment department.

Q I used to have a cashback credit card from Nationwide that repaid me a percentage of everything I spent on the card. Nationwide scrapped it some time ago, but I still think cashback is a good idea. Do any other cards offer this?

A Although some have been withdrawn, you can still get a card that pays you cash for every £1 you spend. MBNA (0800 068 8788) recently launched an American Express card that pays 0.75pc cashback on most purchases, but this rises to 1.5pc when you shop at most major supermarkets and when you fill up with petrol. Or if your credit record is not exactly good, and you have had a few problems in the past, consider the Barclaycard Initial card (www.barclaycard.co.uk). It offers cashback of up to 1pc, depending on where you shop. The main conditions are that you must be over 18 and must have an annual income of at least £10,000. But remember

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

with all cashback cards top off your balance in full every month. There is no sense in getting a modest cashback and pay 19pc interest on what you have spent!

Q I have two young grandchildren and I would like to invest £1,000 each for them in something completely safe that will grow into a nest egg for when they are older. Please do not suggest anything to do with stocks and shares.

A National Savings & Investments is about as safe as you can get, as it is backed by the treasury, and it offers two schemes you might like. The first is the Children's Bonus Bond. The minimum investment is £25 and the maximum is £3,000 per child. Invest for five years and your money grows at an annual 2.5pc, tax free. The child cannot control the bond until he or she reaches at least 16, and the investment can carry on until age 21. The other possibility is premium bonds. There is no guarantee, of course, but you could make your grandchildren rich! Bonds can be bought for a child by a parent, a guardian, a grandparent or a great-grandparent.

Q Can you find out what has happened to Claimback UK? It handles claims against credit card companies.

A Claims management companies are licensed by the Ministry of Justice, which suspended Claimback's licence in January. No reason has been given. Unless and until the suspension ends, the company cannot act for you against any card firm.

Q Please settle a small family dispute. If someone dies without leaving a will, and the only relatives are two grown-up children, are the savings and property shared equally or does the first born child take a larger share? Does it make any difference if one of the adult children is male and the other female?

A If someone dies intestate – without a will – and with no other relatives except two grown-up children, those children share everything equally. It makes no difference which was born first, or whether they are male or female.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.



LOSING BATTLE: Savers are suffering as inflation rose to 4.4pc in February.

Savings are hit as inflation balloons

The pain on savers has been increased as inflation balloons out of control.

It was announced this week that the consumer prices index (CPI) rate hit 4.4pc in February, up from 4pc a month earlier, thanks to increases in the price of fuel, food and clothing.

As well as the cost of living going up, savers are coming under pressure, with their nest eggs losing even more value in real terms.

It will disproportionately affect older people, who often rely on their savings to boost their retirement income.

"The continual rise in inflation compounds the misery of pensioners

By ADAM AIKEN

MyMoney24 editor
.....
relying on savings to supplement their income," said Sylvia Waycot, a spokesman for Moneyfacts.co.uk.

She added: "People trying to save deposits for their first homes will see inflation eating into their hard-earned savings faster than it grows, unless they seek out the few accounts that can keep pace with inflation."

"Over the past six months, the number of savings accounts that beat inflation for basic-rate taxpayers has dropped successively from 118 to only eight today, all of which are fixed-rate Isas."

The latest CPI figure means that a basic-rate taxpayer needs to find a savings account paying interest at 5.5pc simply to keep pace with inflation while a higher-rate taxpayer needs an account paying at least 7.3pc.

Economists had been expecting a February figure slightly lower than 4.4pc and, more importantly, CPI is now more than double the Bank of England's target of 4pc.

Many observers expect CPI to keep rising over the next few months, leading to a greater chance of interest rate rises being implemented sooner rather than later.

Women ruling roost in family finances

Women are most likely to be in control of the family finances in UK households.

While men continue to be the primary income earners in the majority of families, research by M&S Money has revealed it is women who are most likely to be in charge of the purse strings.

While 59pc of people think women are better than men at running household finances, 61pc of women say they prefer to be in control

of family budgets.

Although the gender pay gap is narrowing, on average men still tend to earn 10pc more than women and there are 10pc more men in employment than women.

The findings about who takes financial control at home are in contrast with gender roles in the previous generation.

Then, 55pc of people said it was their fathers who were the financial heads of the household when they

were growing up.

Colin Kersley, chief executive of M&S Money, said: "Although men remain the main income earners in the majority of families, it seems that it is women who hold the purse strings when it comes to the family finances."

"These findings firmly put the myth of the father as the financial head of the family to rest as the changing responsibilities within British households are revealed."

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The little black box that could save you money

Co-op Insurance has launched a product that could lower premiums for young drivers. MyMoney24's

EMMA-LILY CHUBB – who tried the technology out for herself – reports.

Young drivers with safe motoring habits could be rewarded with lower premiums after an insurance company launched a product to analyse driving style.

The technology, which doubles up as an anti-theft tracking device, is more advanced than previous schemes have used.

Many existing pay-as-you-drive schemes are based on telematics systems, which analyse distance, speed and time of travel. This is the first that also rewards safe drivers by monitoring behaviour such as cornering, harsh braking and acceleration.

Drivers are assessed on a pay-how-you-drive basis as opposed to pay-as-you-drive schemes, some of which have additional charges if you drive at certain times.

The Co-op has launched a policy based on this new technology, using information sent via satellite from a palm-sized box in your car.

Every 90 days, your behaviour is assessed and your premiums are adjusted accordingly. This could mean a reduction of up to 11pc off your annual premiums.

According to the Co-op, up to 85pc of young drivers are more responsible than statistics suggest and subsequently could make savings through the pay-how-you-drive product.

The policy is exclusively for 17 to 25-year-olds, who are generally among the hardest hit by higher insurance premiums. In the past year they have



seen an average rise of 58pc, to more than £2,200.

Women drivers, whose premiums are likely to rise in light of the European Court of Justice ruling that bars insurance companies from using gender as a risk factor, are particularly likely to embrace the financial benefits of this product.

David Neave, director of general insurance at Co-operative Insurance, said: "Many young people are being priced out of owning a car due to the escalating cost."

It's a trend he fears could lead to an "uninsurable generation".

He added: "We are giving them the chance to prove themselves as responsible drivers, and dispel the assumption that all young drivers will drive badly and have accidents."

The product allows motorists to log into an online Driving Dashboard to see how their braking, acceleration, cornering, speed and time of driving have been rated. They also have

access to driving tips, which Mr Neave said would act as an "educative tool and a deterrent against driving badly".

In a trial of about 50 customers over six months, drivers reported a change in their habits, such as making fewer journeys, as a result of the information they could access.

But it isn't a one-way street; policyholders who persistently drive badly could see their premiums rise by up to 15pc. If drivers exceed the speed limit to the extent that they would, if caught, lose their licences, their policies would be cancelled.

Julie Townsend, director of campaigns at road safety charity Brake, said: "We welcome this new approach to encourage young drivers to keep themselves and others safe."

"Persuading young drivers to make safer choices, like slowing down and avoiding night-time driving, is vital in preventing more lives being needlessly cut short on our roads."

PALM PILOT:
David Neave, of Co-op Insurance, with the pay-how-you-drive device that could benefit young drivers.

OUT OF SIGHT

The palm-sized box is fitted to your car by an engineer, who will come to you within 14 days of you signing-up to the Co-op deal.

It is fitted out of sight – depending on the model, it will be placed either under the dashboard or under the bonnet.

It will not have a detrimental effect on the price of the car. It is wired to the car as it has to make use of the power supply.

It picks up signals from satellites to locate itself, in the same way a mobile phone does. The box wirelessly calculates acceleration and cornering speeds by measuring G-force. The data is then transmitted back to the Co-op and to your personal, online dashboard.

recently passed her test. I don't imagine she'll change cars often and I like to think it would encourage her to maintain the safe driving standards that she's been taught. It's also great for parents who have children who need insuring but who want to keep an eye on them and the costs down.

Standard quotes are based on risk evaluated by your age, your address and other personal attributes, but the more sophisticated approach this technology offers is a much fairer way of assessing drivers – and it could be cheaper for many younger ones.

THE SMART WAY TO MAINTAIN SAFE DRIVING STANDARDS

Having sat in plenty of cars hurtling down country lanes at horrifying speeds, I can appreciate why young drivers' insurance costs are so high. A survey by charity Brake found that one in 10 young drivers has overtaken another vehicle, at speed, without being able to see what is coming. But I consider myself a safe driver and I resent being penalised for the choices others of my age make, so the idea of having some control over my premiums is a very attractive prospect. That doesn't mean I don't have my reservations. At the



IN THE DRIVING SEAT:
Emma-Lily Chubb, 24, tried out the Smartbox.

product launch, I wanted to know whether the information would be used to invalidate my insurance if I crashed while speeding. I was assured that it wouldn't.

But that hasn't really comforted me, because I know there could still be evidence of any inadvertent lapse from my otherwise sensible driving – such as a hurried journey made when late for an appointment.

Or on the motorway, when it's oh-so-easy to let the speedometer creep up... Do that too many times with the Smartbox fitted and you'll see your premiums creep up, too. Also, although it is a free installation, if you change cars you have to pay for the new box to be fitted.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this to my younger sister who

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Sainsbury's Finance

The fixed-rate saver deal for one year has increased by 0.25pc to 3.25pc. A monthly interest option is also available at the same rate. Savers can invest between £5,000 and £50,000. No early access or further additions are permitted. The account can be operated by investors aged 18, phone or online.

Why is it good?

As a result of the latest fixed-rate bond review from Sainsbury's, the 0.25pc increase means it sits just inside the top 10 rates for its term.

Savings: Santander

The Santander e-Saver Issue 3 rate and bonus has been increased by 0.1pc. This online-only deal now pays a rate of 3pc including a 2.5pc bonus for 12 months. The monthly interest option has also increased to 2.96pc with a bonus of 2.46pc for 12 months. Savers can invest between £1 and £2m. No advance notice is required to access funds, although there is a maximum cash machine withdrawal limit of £300 a day. Savers must be aged 16 and over to operate this account.

Why is it good?

A rate and bonus increase to this popular online account sees Santander boost its position within the no-notice online savings market. Paying a competitive new rate with a large introductory bonus, the deal sits comfortably among the other no-notice market leaders.

Mortgages: ING Direct

ING Direct has launched a new fixed-rate mortgage offering a rate of 4.99pc to June 30, 2016. The maximum loan-to-value is 75pc and customers can borrow between £50,000 and £1m. A fee of £195 is payable. Incentives of a free valuation and free legal fees are offered to remortgage customers and there is the option for all borrowers to make overpayments of up to 10pc of the mortgage advance.

Why is it good?

This latest product review has seen selected fixed rates reduced with a newly-priced fixed rate of 0.35pc lower than its predecessor. The product is competitive and offers a low fee of £195, plus incentives for remortgage borrowers.

Mortgages: Leek United Building Society

Leek United has launched a range of new fixed-rate mortgages for direct business only. Most notable is the new deal at 4.25pc to May 31, 2014. The maximum loan-to-value is 75pc and customers can borrow between £30,000 and £500,000. A fee of £495 is payable. Borrowers also have the option to make overpayments of up to 10pc of the mortgage advance.

Why is it good?

The new range of fixed-rate mortgages is competitively priced and with low fees. Sitting just behind the current market leaders, it is open to first-time, second-time and remortgage borrowers.

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BUSINESS WEEK

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

HIGH-speed train services to a host of top European destinations could soon be on offer after a Channel Tunnel safety dispute was resolved successfully.



The deal could see trains run from Kent to Amsterdam, Switzerland and Frankfurt, among other tourist hot-spots.

Kent tourism bosses said the move could lead to a 40 per cent increase in visitor numbers.

SIMON ROBINSON

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KEY PARTNERS



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By JOE BILL

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CHANCELLOR George Osborne has targeted growth for businesses with his latest Budget.

On Wednesday he announced a series of measures aimed at boosting enterprise, including a further cut to corporation tax and an extension of plans to set up enterprise zones in some of the most deprived areas of England.

The 21 new enterprise areas will benefit from relaxed planning laws and discounted business rates in an attempt to encourage the creation of jobs.

Mr Osborne told the Commons: "Last year's emergency Budget was about rescuing the nation's finances and paying for the mistakes of the past. Today's Budget is about reforming the nation's economy so we have enduring growth and jobs in the future."

The most prominent statistic to come out of Mr Osborne's speech was that next month's 4p rise in fuel duty had been cancelled. Instead, 1p per litre will be cut from pump prices, paid for by a £2 billion tax on oil companies.

He said: "It's about doing what we can to help families with the cost of living and high oil price."

There was also a freeze on alcohol duty and air travel duty, but tobacco tax was increased by 2 per cent. During his hour-long speech, Mr Osborne said he wanted the UK to be the "best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business".

DESPITE tight fiscal conditions, we are encouraged the Chancellor has prioritised business growth and private-sector expansion alongside deficit reduction.

There are some real pro-enterprise moves in this Budget that businesses will commend. Reducing corporation tax rates by 2 per cent this year is measure of real substance. We also welcome the Government's desire to speed up tax simplification and to remove the much-disliked 50p top rate of income tax.

Smaller companies will take heart from the Chancellor's moves to cut fuel duty, maintain business-rate reliefs for an additional year, and to exempt businesses with fewer than 10 employees from new regulations.

We have consistently pushed for growth, not just for Kent businesses but for the UK. We welcome the re-introduction of enterprise zones in England and the decision to reward those who invest in new businesses across the UK, for example through the doubling of entrepreneurs' relief.

Jo James, chief executive, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

THE Chancellor said this would be a Budget for growth and in part that is what we have. However, there are vital components missing for small firms to create jobs.

We are pleased the Chancellor introduced a fuel duty stabiliser, has committed to cutting fuel duty and introduced 21 new enterprise zones. This will provide much-needed stability for struggling small businesses.

The Government has committed to



Your business is our business



Osborne's Budget goes for growth

This will include streamlining the system for planning applications and introducing fast-track planning for major infrastructure. A sum of £100 million will be invested in science capital development, as well as double the lifetime limit for entrepreneurs' relief to £10m.

And for young people getting into work there will be funds available for 50,000 additional apprenticeship places in the next four years.

The Chancellor did, however, reveal that he expected Britain's economy to grow at a slower rate than previously estimated, with the Office

For Budgetary Responsibility cutting its growth forecast for 2011 from 2.1 to 1.7 per cent.

The housing market has also been targeted as the Budget pledged £250m to help 10,000 first-time buyers purchase newly-built homes.

The buyer would have to put up 5 per cent of the cost, while the Government and home-builder would both put up 10 per cent, to try to boost the construction industry.

"This will not end the pressure on family budgets, but we've done what we can to help," said Mr Osborne.

REACTION TO THE BUDGET

cutting red tape, but we believe new employment laws will still come into force in this year, which could hinder businesses from taking on staff. The biggest opportunity missing from this Budget is not extending the NICs holiday nationwide to existing businesses, which would really have provided incentives for small firms to take on more staff.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway

THE increase of 2 per cent above inflation in beer tax is ruinous to the nation's local brewing sector, ignores its contribution to the economy and puts thousands of jobs in breweries and pubs in jeopardy.

This is a real kick in the teeth to the local brewing sector, one of the few British success stories of recent years. Local brewers are just the kind of business this government says it wants to see prosper. They create jobs and contribute to the local and wider economy by using homegrown ingredients. Yet the current taxation regime is killing off our main route to market – the pub.

The Treasury claimed before the Budget the beer duty escalator is 'baked in'. We say it is half-baked.

Continuing to increase taxes on draught beer will serve only to increase purchases of cheap vodka for unsupervised home consumption. We fail to see how this policy can help tackle binge-drinking.

Eddie and Lois Gadd, The Ramsgate Brewery

WE WELCOME the raft of supply-side measures announced in the Budget. The combination of reduced corporation tax and planning liberalisation will help to lift business confidence at a difficult time. However, the scale of deregulation in areas that really matter to business in general, such as employment law, is still very limited. And while the 21 new enterprise zones have real potential, we question why the whole of the UK can't be an enterprise zone.

This was a Budget aimed at changing perceptions and boosting business confidence about long-term economic prospects. The Chancellor didn't have much money to play with, but he played his hand well.

Miles Templeman, IoD director general

FOR a Government committed to being 'the greenest ever', the Budget failed to ignite the forthcoming Green Deal programme to retrofit homes. No additional incentives such as a cut in VAT for energy-efficient repairs, stamp duty or council tax were announced to make Britain's homes greener and more energy-efficient.

The Chancellor missed an opportunity to support the Green Deal and kick-start consumer demand to make our homes greener.

Without creating demand in the market for energy-efficient improvement, it is difficult to see how the Green Deal will succeed when it starts in the autumn of 2012. Help for

the house-building industry by the introduction of a Government-backed shared-equity scheme to help 10,000 first-time buyers is a welcome boost, but it is doubtful whether it will help the tens of thousands of small house-builders who are struggling to survive.

The announcement to simplify the planning system is long overdue as this, coupled with the lack of finance, is stifling the industry which is delivering half the amount of homes that we need every year to meet demand.

The announcement that there is to be no new regulation on firms with fewer than 10 staff for three years is welcome news.

However, it would be helpful if the Government could go further and cut existing red tape on small businesses. The Budget will help many small businesses, but far more still needs to be done to bring about a full recovery.

Richard Diment, director general, Federation of Master Builders

THE Budget sets out measures that will support strong and sustainable private-sector growth, reform the economy and tax system and help people in the South East to make ends meet in these difficult times.

It takes affordable action to reduce fuel prices while raising the threshold at which people start paying tax, taking a further 260,000 people out of income tax altogether and reducing the tax paid by 25 million people by an average of £48.

Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury



Comment

AS A taxpayer, I winced upon hearing that London had been chosen to host the 2012 Olympic Games. On the monetary front, we do not have great form in building multi-million-pound venues, with both the Millennium Dome and Wembley Stadium coming in hugely over budget.

France managed to knock up the Stade de France without breaking the bank. And there are plenty of other examples of countries across the globe that can be trusted to build what's on the blueprint with relative ease.

Sadly, we British cannot. The Dome came in £204 million over budget and it is far from the exception to the rule. But it's not just the big projects we seem to fudge. Remember the Millennium Bridge fiasco?

So what chance have we got of building a whole Olympic Village without incurring huge losses on top of the millions already earmarked out of our taxes?

On a related national-pride front, even if we somehow get past the construction stage unscathed, we must remember the show Beijing put on in 2008.

It was spectacular from start to finish. Even the normally tedious opening and closing ceremonies were worth watching, carried out with almost military precision.

Yes, the Chinese threw billions into their Games, but on finance alone there is no way we can compete with that and are therefore doomed to failure by comparison.

However, I welcome the Olympics to London with open arms.

The Games will have a huge impact on Kent, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to and through the county.

This will give Kent businesses an immediate boost, but we must make sure we are ready to capitalise on the long-term financial opportunities the Games have given us by ensuring we can entice these sports fans back. Businesses should follow the Olympic athletes' lead by making sure they're in the best possible shape come the main event.

SIMON ROBINSON, Business Editor
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Pennywise parents can bank on kids learning to save

TWO fathers from Thanet have designed a pocket-money management activity for children aimed at helping in their financial education, **writes Joe Bill**.

Pocket Pound was created by Scott Gavin, an IT consultant, and his business partner to help youngsters understand the banking system.

Aimed at four- to 11-year-olds, Pocket Pound is designed to teach children to save and earn rewards for saving.

The Pocket Pound pack includes pages where you can list specific chores with different prices, cheques for your child to 'cash' with mum or dad, and statement pages so they can manage their money as if they have a real bank account.

Demand came from other parents when one of the children took the prototype to school, so the inventors got behind the idea as a venture.

Mr Gavin said: "Banks, interest and tax are rather abstract concepts to children, so we created a paper-based banking activity where the parent plays the role of the bank and the child becomes the saver."

Pocket Pound consists of a durable wire-bound booklet with an agreement between the child and adult around the payment of pocket money.

It also consists of rate cards to define jobs and reasons for being paid pocket money, while job cards track how much has been earned, minus 'tax'.

Children can also keep hold of their bank-account statements and pretend cheques to cut out, colour in and



POCKET POUND: A teaching aid for children's finance

exchange for cash. Mr Gavin said: "It may sound complicated on the surface, but it's really simple."

"Rather than physically paying pocket money, the parent acts as the bank and simply records the amounts in the Pocket Pound booklet."

"You can then start to track extra chores around the house, incorporate interest on positive bank balances and start to explore the concepts of income tax and debt."

Children are also handed a pretend credit card and credit-card statements as part of the pack. For more information, visit www.pocketpound.com.

Apprenticeship boom time

RECESSION-HIT construction companies are being urged to invest in apprentices ahead of an expected boom in the industry.

Latest Construction Skills Network figures show the rate of growth in the South East sector is expected to rise by 2.2 per cent a year over the next five years – up on the UK average of just 1 per cent.

The Industry Training Board and Sector Skills Council responded to the positive forecast by urging employers of all sizes to recognise construction apprentices as a crucial resource and to help young people enter the industry to avoid losing skills and talent to other sectors.

One company that has already

developed an apprentice programme is the Cathedral Works Organisation (CWO), a historic-buildings contractor with management team and skilled employees based in Kent.

Training coordinator Cathy O'Brien said increased competition in the market had made pre-qualification for tenders more rigorous, further increasing the value of apprenticeships.

"Apprenticeship programmes are now a key consideration under the pre-qualification process," she said.

"They feature additional questions, asking if a company has an apprenticeship programme, how many apprentices they have and how much they spend on training."

In September, the firm took on two new apprentices: 24-year-old Ian Knowles and 29-year-old Ed Shaw.

Both had previously been studying for a diploma in stonemasonry at college but recognised they needed work experience to increase their employment chances and so joined CWO.

Knowles said: "I am enjoying getting to grips with the tools and improving my skills. College doesn't really prepare you for the workshop."

"You really learn a lot from working next to people, seeing how quickly people work and the standard of work needed. You can't really learn this in a classroom."

O'Brien said the apprenticeship route, while at first costly and time-consuming, had many advantages.

"We find our apprentices are keen to develop their careers as skilled

craftsmen with us, rather than going elsewhere," she said.

"We have a good retention rate, which can be clearly seen by our contracts manager, Richard Mitchell, who has been with us since 1965."

"Taking on apprentices also means we can train them the CWO way and maintain our standards. It is more difficult to retrain someone from elsewhere."

"With up to six apprentices working for us at any one time, it is a significant investment in both time and money."

"However, we have built our reputation on the quality of our staff and so it is an investment we will continue to make."



ED SHAW: Invaluable experience



IAN KNOWLES: Developing skills



CHARTERED accountants and business advisors J Cleverdon Ltd will be renamed Cleverdons from next month.

The Broadstairs business will launch the new identity on Wednesday, April 6. A spokesman said: "The rebranding reflects J Cleverdon Ltd's commitment to improving its services to the business community. The company has become increasingly aware that clients often need further management support and business advice."

In addition to the company's core business of accountancy and tax, the rebranded Cleverdons also has business advisory services which include strategic planning, management support and financial-management coaching.

RESTAURATEUR Rezaul Raja was honoured at a seminar and dinner at the House of Commons in recognition of his contribution to the British economy.

The businessman, who owns the Raja of Kent restaurants in Tenterden and Maidstone and Mouchak restaurant in St Michael's, was invited to London by the Development Council For Bangladesh In The UK.

Congratulating the winners, Labour leader Ed Miliband highlighted the "big role in promoting the vital economic, social, cultural and political work done by so many Bangladeshis in this country".

Mr Raja said: "It's a great honour to receive such recognition and a testament to the dedication of my chefs and front-of-house teams."

KENT County Council's Olympics chief, Stephanie Holt, will deliver a speech at a business breakfast next week. The 2012 manager will speak to delegates about the impact of the Olympics in Kent.

With up to 45 training camps in the county and Ebbsfleet station forecasting up to 10,000 passengers per hour, Holt has been charged with bringing private and public-sector bodies together to maximise the legacy to Kent. The event is at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Thursday, March 31, from 7.30am to 9am.

Email conferencesales@priestfield.com or phone 01634 300000 for more information.

A BUSINESS breakfast is being held at the Turner Contemporary on Tuesday. The Margate gallery is hosting the event in a bid to engage with local businesses ahead of the attraction's grand opening next month.

Margate Renewal Partnership director Derek Harding said: "Having a world-famous gallery in town will increase visitor numbers, which will have an impact on local businesses. I hope anyone with a business in the area will take this opportunity to find out more."

The breakfast is particularly aimed at businesspeople based in Margate, Cliftonville and Westbrook. It runs from 7am to 8.30am.

Those wishing to attend should email sharon.sebastian@thanet.gov.uk or phone 01843 577182.

INTERNATIONAL delivery firm GBA Services has expanded into Kent. The company has set up its South East distribution hub at Montpelier Business Park, Ashford, a move expected to create 35 jobs.

The depot will handle high-priority shipments using the company's Time Critical Division and also specialise in serving pharmaceutical-industry clients using its GDP Pharma Logistics operation.

Depot manager Mike Candela said: "From Ashford we have unrivalled links to Europe, making it quicker, more cost-effective and greener for us to get our vehicles in and out of the UK."

Extra destinations give light at end of Tunnel

By **MARIJKE COX**

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PLANS to run high-speed trains to a range of favoured European destinations are within touching distance of being agreed after a dispute over safety was resolved.

It could mean a 40 per cent increase in the number of passengers travelling through Europe on Eurostar, with new route options opening up to places such as Amsterdam, Switzerland, Frankfurt and the Côte d'Azur in France.

Popular

For Kent, the move could create a significant boost in tourism, with a potential rise in visits by our Continental neighbours.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, the chief executive of tourism board Visit Kent, said the county was already popular with visitors from Germany and The Netherlands.

"This would make it even simpler for them to come and enjoy a short break or longer stay with us," she said.

"We already work closely with tourism providers in both countries and this would strengthen our partnerships considerably."

She continued: "Fast-train services to destinations across mainland Europe will open up new destinations and markets."

Currently, French company Eurostar is only able to run high-speed trains to Brussels and



ON TRACK: More European destinations are moving within reach of high-speed rail

Paris from London, stopping at Ashford International and Ebbsfleet, due to a dispute over safety regulations.

In October, German rail operator Deutsche Bahn expressed an interest in running trains from London through Europe and to Frankfurt, just as Eurostar announced it was looking to buy 10 new trains from Siemens to add to its existing stock.

But French safety regulators stated that the only trains able to travel safely through the Channel Tunnel were those with motors and electrical equipment concentrated in power cars at either end of the locomotive – like those used on the Brussels and Paris trains.



MANY TANKS: Steve Bartholomew, left, and the team from JB Landscape with one of the water-storage tanks being installed

More flowing praise

JB LANDSCAPE has won a further environmental contract from its Kent Science Park co-tenant AmicusHorizon.

The firm was chosen to install underground water-storage tanks at Amicus sites throughout the Swale and Thames Gateway regions.

Managing partner Steve Bartholomew said: "These underwater tanks fill up from the houses' external guttering. Rainwater is channelled along the guttering and downspouts into the tanks.

"All we then have to do is attach a hosepipe and activate the simple pump mechanism and the rainwater, which would otherwise

have run into the soakaway, can be used to water gardens. It sounds obvious, but it's an extremely elegant system."

JB Landscape has further reason to celebrate after picking up two accreditations.

Mandy Bartholomew, Steve's wife and business partner, said: "This is a really exciting time for the company. We've been working towards these accreditations for two years and to see all that hard work paying off is very satisfying.

"We've always known all our work is carried out to the highest environmental and quality standards and now we have the documentation to prove it."

Tunnel operator Eurotunnel, however, argued the new trains, which have electric motors under the floor of each carriage, were safe to run in the Tunnel. The ongoing dispute meant that rail authorities in Europe had to intervene.

A report released on Monday by the European Railway Agency found there was no basis to discriminate between the two designs, leaving the French state-owned operator SNCF, which controls Eurostar, able to buy the new stock.

Competitive

Eurotunnel spokesman John Keefe said it meant new destinations could be rolled out, with an expected passenger increase of 40 per cent. "It's very good news all round," he said.

"We'll take a lot of business from airlines, and with Deutsche Bahn also hoping to launch new routes it will mean competitive rates for passengers as choice expands."

Mr Keefe said he was unsure of the exact timetable but said trains could potentially stop at Ashford International or Ebbsfleet.

"The next step is for the rule changes to be approved by the Channel Tunnel Inter-governmental Commission," he said.

"This report was part of a series of steps to try to get approval for these trains – it was the most key part.

"If it is approved, then we can start looking to operate to these destinations from 2013."

As well as Amsterdam, Geneva and the Côte d'Azur, passengers will be able to take advantage of seasonal trips to destinations such as Avignon in the south of France and the Alps.



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Ian gets to grips with a

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THE BIG INTERVIEW

IT IS often the case that the best inventions are also the most simple.

I give more value to the development of the paper-clip and the Post-it note than I do to the iPod or its technologically superior big brother the iPad.

The internet tells me that a bright young spark at the Gem Manufacturing Company was the first in the world to cunningly bend a strip of wire several times in order to attach one or more pieces of paper together; and that Dr Spencer Silver was the genius who developed a "low-tack, reusable, pressure-sensitive adhesive", a scientific breakthrough now known as the Post-it.

Both inventors deserve to be remembered among the great minds of our times for their work in making office life a tiny bit easier for millions of people across the globe.

The iPod is brilliant – don't get me wrong – but it's the everyman factor of the paper-clip that particularly appeals to me.

Surely there's an existing product out there that I could improve and secure my millions?



TIGHT FIT: The Jubilee clip is everywhere

Sadly, my eureka moment is yet to arrive. Commander Lumley Robinson had his in his shed in 1921. The retired naval officer – a constant tinkerer – developed the Jubilee worm-drive hose clip.

His self-titled firm, L. Robinson and Company, now produces tens of millions of the small metal clips each year and exports them as far afield as the Middle East and Japan.

The company's co-managing directors are

The great-grandson of the inventor of the Jubilee clip now oversees their production – shipping out tens of millions of the clasps each year. Ian Jennings has taken up the position of co-managing director of Gillingham-based firm L. Robinson and Co, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

The 26-year-old spoke to Business Week editor SIMON ROBINSON about how his tinkering great-grandfather came up with the clip in his garden shed and how the business now exports to countries as far afield as the Middle East and eastern Asia.



IAN JENNINGS

Lumley's granddaughter's husband, John Jennings, and great-grandson, Ian.

Ian, 26, explained how the clip went from invention to export product in just two years.

"At the time, the traditional method to fasten hoses was to take a strip of metal, drill a hole in each end, bend it round and put a nut and bolt through the top.

"After my great-grandfather retired, he was a bit of a tinkerer and sat in his shed with some tools and fiddled with things.

"He thought there must be a way you could improve the fastening so you have something that does not require any work to build.

"He came up with the thread and the screw device, got a patent, then bought some steel and got engineers to make them.

"Then he went to London and went round to garages and asked if they wanted to buy a few. He sold them on the basis that they're cleaner and save time. It caught on quite well."

Ian took his place with the family firm, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, in 2006 after completing a law degree

at the University of Southampton.

At the company's Gillingham headquarters, I asked the young MD if he had proven his Jubilee clip credentials to the 130-strong workforce.

"You need to ask the guys who work here," he said. "I hope so, as we're all interdependent. I rely on them and they rely on me, so there has to be an element of trust.

"I'm sure there would have been people saying 'This is a clear case of nepotism', but family businesses are subject to that all the time. Time will tell whether or not my position is justified.

"I like to think that if I try my best and apply myself, then my appointment will be justified."

Ian first took up a position at the family firm more through chance than design. Having graduated in May 2006, he took on the company-secretary role just two months later.

"After I graduated I didn't have any real plans," he said.

"Like most students, I thought I'd have a normal summer and then focus on getting a job. I was not pushed into joining the firm as my family felt it was important for me to find my own way.

"But then the company secretary became



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HEADQUARTERS: L. Robinson and Co produces Jubilee clips at its Gillingham base



real world-beater

ill and had to take a lot of time off.

"At the time we were looking into buying a new building and moving from five properties into one, a task that is made more easy by having a law degree as I have experience dealing with surveyors and solicitors.

"So with my background it was a good fit. I was at a family garden barbecue and a neighbour said 'Why don't you go in and make yourself useful?'. So I did."

After learning the ropes of the business through taking on the secretarial and accountancy duties, Jennings was later made co-managing director alongside his father, a move he says has proved mutually beneficial.



TAKE A STAND: Ian Jennings (left) promoting his great-grandfather's invention

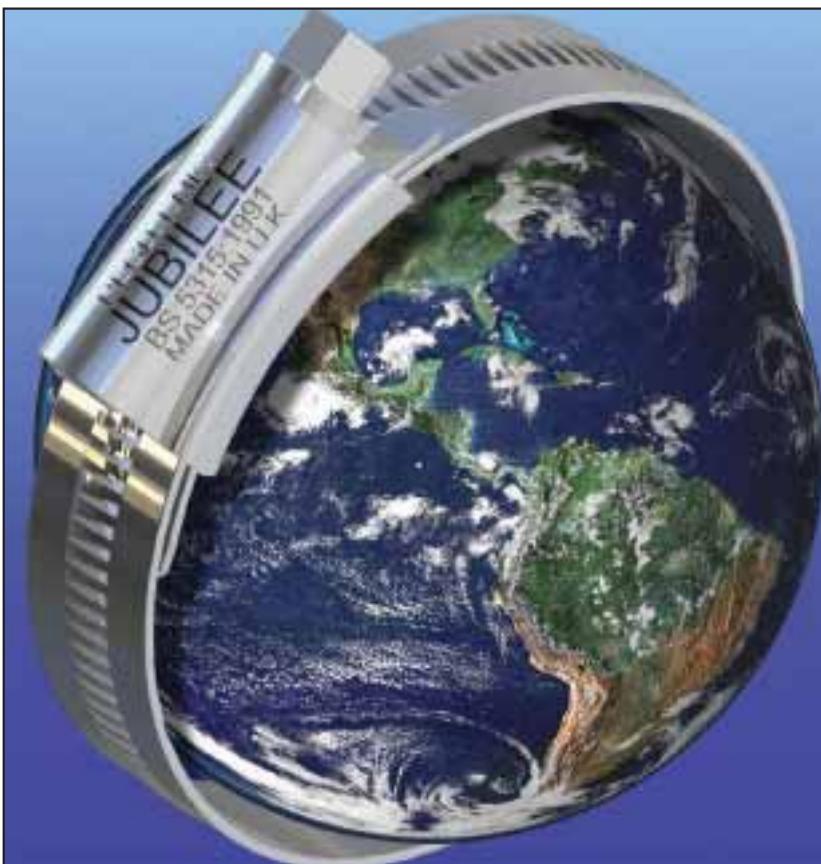
"I hope my dad finds it more relaxing having someone to share things with. We have quite a good relationship – it's probably better now we're working together."

Jennings has big plans for the firm.

"Why aim low? Michelangelo said aim high and miss, as it's much better than aiming low and never finding out what you could have achieved. We're an established company, but our market share is not huge because we're at the premium end of the market."

"There is scope to improve that by educating people who buy clips that our products are not just brand names – there's a quality aspect to it as well."

"There's also room to go further afield. There's a new world emerging, particularly in the Far East, where high-quality technical products are demanded."



Jennings has clearly worked hard in gaining an in-depth knowledge of both his family's business and the market in which it sits.

And he is keen to further extend his knowledge by getting his hands dirty on the shop floor.

The MD said: "I don't have any engineering background or training, but I'm very interested in that stuff, though."

"I can't operate every machine in the building and certainly not as well as our trained and experienced engineers, but it's important for me to have an understanding of how things work."

Networking banishes the gloom

DON'T listen to the merchants of gloom – there's never been a better time for local entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses.

The verdict comes from the Wealden Business Group, a Tenterden-based networking organisation whose members range from a plumber to a solicitor, from electrician to finance broker.

Group chairman Mike Parmar said: "If people who want to run their own businesses listen to the prophets of doom and the claims that banks aren't lending, they're sadly misinformed.

"We're finding it's a great time for start-ups. Two of our newest young members – a tree surgeon and a plumber – have started up since the recession began and are going great guns.

"And our banker members are being highly positive: if you have a good business plan, then they have money to lend."

Parmar, who runs telecoms consultancy Wave2 Communications from his home in Appledore, said: "I know plenty of people who have started up busi-



MIKE PARMAR: Positive outlook

nesses, many from their spare bedrooms, and they're doing very well. "And there are members of our group who were thinking about retiring and

haven't, not because they can't afford to, but because there are so many good business opportunities out there."

However, Parmar stresses that new business start-ups need to be disciplined and professional about marketing, cash control and networking.

"People buy from people", he said. "For instance, there have been no fewer than 400 referrals between our 30 members in the past year. Put simply – networking works."

Wealden Business Group welcomes applications for membership from local businessmen and women. Visit www.wealden-business-group.co.uk or phone secretary Justin Nelson on 0844 880 4698 for more information.

The group, which meets each week at Little Silver Hotel, Tenterden, has guest speakers, organises trips – visits to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Canary Wharf and Port Lympne are on this year's schedule – and enjoy regular social occasions to raise funds for their nominated charity, The Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth, near Ashford.

IAN'S TOP TIPS

- People are really important. "Picking good ones and maintaining good relationships with them has got to make sense and that is true with suppliers and customers as much as with staff."

- Maintain a positive attitude. "I am fairly sure that people and businesses with defeatist attitudes get defeated. Whatever may happen, I think it is important to take as many positives from any situation as possible."

- Focus on the basics. "For us, that means hose clips. Our customers come to us for hose clips, so that is the first thing we have to get right."

- Ask for help. "Whatever the subject, there will always be somebody who knows more about it, so ask them – you might learn something."

"It is often the case that when two people who know more than I do in the company come to me and want money for two different things I can only afford one."

"I need to be able to understand what it is they need the money for and then make an informed decision."

Jennings says his workforce gives the firm the advantage over its rivals.

"I have absolute supreme confidence in my staff. The fact the company has reached this age is all to do with their expertise and ability. The only lasting competitive advantage is knowledge, as that cannot be replicated."

"If the advantage was location, then rivals can move into your town. "If it's machinery, then they can buy it. It's people who make the difference. And without doubt we've got some great people here."



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Masterful use of expertise from campus

By SIMON ROBINSON

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESS experts have been providing their consultancy services to small and medium-sized companies as part of their postgraduate qualification.

The Kent Masters in Business Administration (MBA) students offered their advice to eight firms across the county during Consultancy Week.

Simon Reed, producer of Rough Old Wife Cider, based in Old Wives Lees, near Canterbury, said he had benefited from the student service.

"The students delivered a very good overview of the cider business and spotted some elements of our business and its portrayal on the website – both deliberate and accidental – which could be sharpened up," he said.

"The students remarked on the lack of obvious Twitter connection from the website and this has already been addressed."

Jonathan Ryan, a wedding photographer from Canterbury, said: "The questions they

asked in the first five minutes made me realise this was going to be a useful day. At the presentation, I realised they had figured out stuff in three hours that I'd spent four years realising. There were genuinely new ideas that I'll be trialling which will hopefully increase business for me."

"The process went much deeper than I had expected and I found their interest in my business inspiring," said Annie McNamara, a copywriter from Tankerton.

"They asked perceptive questions and came up with very constructive suggestions relating to my research, pricing and website strategy."

The consultancy task was one of a range of networking activities the Kent Business School professionals will have to undertake to gain the MBA.

Students have also conducted a live economic impact study on the possibility of a new Kent airport at the request of the BBC.

MBA director Rajendra Shiroli said: "The possibility of a new airport in Kent has received much media coverage, so it is good to see Kent MBA students at Kent Business School working on a Live Economic Impact Study for the BBC as well as being involved in such a high-profile initiative for Kent."

"Their study involves identifying the econo-



EXPERT ADVICE: MBA students and Kent companies have collaborated to mutual benefit

ic benefits of a new airport in the region, and its contribution to the South East economy.

"It is just one of the projects undertaken as part of the Kent MBA programme which enables students to work with local and national organisations on some of their key projects, gaining a real and relevant insight into how their business is affected by current economic challenges and changes.

"The study also provides a collaborative approach for students to grow tangible business connections, gain a deeper understanding of the challenges the organisation faces, enrich their business knowledge and sharpen their leadership skills."

Kent MBA students will also be working on initiatives for Kent County Council as part of

their MBA project, which includes enterprises such as applying systems thinking in the public sector; social return on investment; and development of an email and internet usage policy, among several other projects scheduled for delivery between June and August.

Other Kent MBA students are working with the power generation organisation Cummins, at its Manston site in Thanet.

They are looking towards the possibility of providing a live strategic project that involves working collaboratively with the senior management team at Cummins.

The details are being finalised, with the possibility of this joint intervention starting in early summer. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/kbs

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Flanagan joins trust team

EAST Malling Trust has appointed Sally Flanagan as its business development director.

The former Hadlow College business development manager has been brought in to help the charitable trust strengthen its ties with the business community, academia and key industry and community organisations.

Flanagan said she was looking forward to

the role. "With food security and adapting to climate change increasingly on the agenda, it is clear the trust, and the work of East Malling Research, are internationally important," she said.

"I'm delighted to be joining the team and playing my part in nurturing the already strong relations between the trust and key organisations in the land-based community."

Park workshop on employment law

THE latest employment law updates will be explained at a Kent Science Park workshop next month.

Employment experts from Maidstone-based law firm Brachers LLP will discuss recent changes to the default retirement age, flexible working and shared parental leave.

The company's Richard Thompson said: "Employment law is probably the area of law that is of the most constant concern to business owners."

"Legislation can move so quickly and it's extremely difficult to understand your legal situation regarding employees."

"An issue confusing a lot of employers at the moment surrounds the leave people are enti-

tled to take when they, or their partner, are having a child."

"Much has been made of the Government's extensions to paternity-leave entitlements and pay, and there is now legislation allowing a couple to effectively share out the time they can spend off work."

"For employers, knowing where you stand can be a minefield. Our workshops always start by looking at the latest legislation and clearly explaining the implications."

"We are then always happy to take any questions from delegates on issues that are of particular concern."

The workshop will be on Tuesday, April 26, at the science park, near Sittingbourne.

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Billions are lost to cyber crooks



BUSINESSES are being advised to protect themselves against the rising risk of cyber crime.

The warning was made by Ashford-based Bluefin Insurance Services after Cabinet Office research found data breaches and malicious attacks were costing UK businesses £21 billion a year.

The company's head of customer proposition, Peter Castle, said: "Cyber crime is an increasingly serious problem, but many traditional insurance policies could leave businesses vulnerable in the event of an attack."

The Government report revealed the most common forms of cyber crime were theft of intellectual property, industrial espionage, extortion and theft of customer data. It is thought the true cost of cyber crime to UK businesses could be much higher as many incidents are not reported publicly.

Further research by the Ponemon Institute indicates a 7 per cent rise in the cost of data breaches compared with the same period last year. The institute found 77 per cent of UK businesses had suffered at least one data breach over the

past year at a cost of £112 per record lost.

Despite a rise in the number of high-profile data breaches, with insurance giant Zurich and the Rural Payments Agency sanctioned for losing sensitive data, Castle said many insurance policies had failed to keep pace with the growth of virtual crime.

"Even the smallest business can accumulate critical information and sensitive customer details on its computer files and the loss of these assets could have a catastrophic effect on the business and its customers," he said.

"Historically, most policies cover against physical loss or damage and, as a result, won't protect against electronic risk exposure as data is virtual and intangible."

"However, in the past year or so, a small number of insurance companies have responded by developing policies that cover additional areas such as breach of network security, privacy liability, reputational harm and cyber extortion."

CYBER CRIME

Protect your business

To help safeguard businesses from the threat of cyber crime, Bluefin offers the following advice:

- Examine current insurance policies and consider whether specialist cover is required.
- Review IT systems and ensure all firewall protection and anti-virus software is updated regularly.
- Conduct a cyber-crime risk assessment to identify any weak points in security.
- Provide refresher training to employees highlighting ways to improve data security.
- The Cabinet Office report identifies businesses in IP intensive industries such as pharmaceuticals and manufacturing as being most at risk of cyber crime.
- Businesses in these fields should consider taking out extra protection to guard against the consequences of a loss of data.



GOING UNDERGROUND: The Bunker Secure Hosting at Ash

The Bunker mentality takes on golden glow

THE Bunker secure data centre has shown it values service as much as IT know-how after becoming a gold member of the Service Desk Institute (SDI).

The Bunker Secure Hosting Ltd houses computer systems for clients such as the Government, financial-services organisations and technology firms from a military-grade nuclear bunker at Ash, near Sandwich.

A company official said being a member of the SDI gave The Bunker access to the best industry knowledge and expert advice.

Service manager Nicola Davies said: "A modern data centre requires more than technicians to keep servers running. We provide

fully-outsourced IT solutions, including first-line customer support for applications, proactive problem prevention and comprehensive customer support.

The service team are an integral part of The Bunker's data centre as a service solution.

"I am delighted The Bunker's service desk is now a gold member of SDI and we will continue to ensure our team remains ahead on innovation."

The Bunker is protected by a 3.5-metre perimeter fence, 3m-thick walls, solid-steel doors, guard dogs, CCTV, military electromagnetic pulse protection, security guards and sophisticated access controls.



DATA PROTECTION: The Bunker's clients include the Government

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Picture: NICK DUNGAN

MOVING FORWARD: Sevenoaks Rugby Club are on the way to a new clubhouse at last

Oaks to finally move forward on clubhouse

THERE was an overwhelming sense of relief at Sevenoaks Rugby Club this week when they were finally given the go-ahead to start work expanding and refurbishing their clubhouse.

The Oaks had threatened to call in the lawyers after Sevenoaks Town Council sent them a letter a fortnight ago, ordering them not to start work on the project at Knole Paddock.

But the parties have now reached an agreement that will allow the scheme to go ahead, and work is set to begin immediately after the rugby club agreed to place certain restrictions on the clubhouse's use.

"We're relieved about it because we had a very generous offer of funding from the Rugby Football Union and we wanted to make sure we could make good use of it, so it's great news," chairman Lee Adamson told this newspaper.

In an additional statement the club said: "Building work on the second phase will commence immediately, so we now need to kick-start the fundraising process as further funds are required in order for us to complete a clubhouse that will make us proud, be an important part of a vibrant community and suitable for future generations of Sevenoaks players."

On the field, Sevenoaks will play the second part of a London 2 South East double-header with Brighton on Saturday.

The Oaks beat Brighton 21-13 at the Paddock last weekend and hooker Ben Martyr lived up to his name, responding to a late call-up with a man-of-the-match display.

Sevenoaks must win at Brighton to stand any chance of making the play-offs and hope that results elsewhere go their way – if Aylesford beat Maidstone the Oaks will be playing London 2 South East rugby again next season.

RUGBY LEAGUE TABLES

LONDON 1 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	PD	BP	Pts
1 Tonbridge Juddians	23	22	0	1	706	18	108
2 London Irish Amateur	23	18	2	3	410	17	69
3 Chichester	23	18	2	3	452	16	92
4 Haywards Heath	23	14	8	245	13	71	
5 Doves	23	12	10	117	15	65	
6 Beckenham	23	12	8	72	9	63	
7 Portsmouth	23	10	2	204	11	58	
8 Sutton & Epsom	23	9	1	12	116	8	54
9 Cottenham	23	10	0	141	100	14	50
10 Hove	23	9	0	141	100	6	46
11 Thanet Wanderers	23	9	2	12	200	6	32
12 Wimbledon	23	6	0	16	432	6	32
13 Tonbridge Wells	23	1	1	21	587	2	8
14 Chobham	23	0	2	21	736	3	7

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST

1 Old Elthamians	20	18	0	2	446	14	86
2 Aylesford Bulls	20	15	0	4	237	9	67
3 Lawes	20	14	0	6	253	11	67
4 Sevenoaks	20	12	0	8	292	14	52
5 East Grinstead	20	14	1	5	434	14	57
6 Brighton	19	10	1	8	35	11	53
7 Old Dunstonians	20	6	1	13	39	10	36
8 Wellingham	20	7	0	13	242	6	34
9 Old Mid-Whitgiftian	20	4	2	14	454	5	25
10 Deal & Betteshanger	20	7	1	12	67	7	22
11 Purley John Fisher	20	0	0	20	774	2	3
12 Maidstone	20	8	0	12	121	6	-12

LONDON 3 SOUTH EAST

1 Heathfield & Waldron	20	18	0	2	362	16	88
2 Crowborough	20	17	1	2	399	16	86
3 Charlton Park	20	17	2	1	454	13	85
4 Medway	20	12	0	8	147	13	61
5 Park House	20	9	2	9	-9	11	51
6 Folkestone	20	9	0	11	45	9	45
7 Eastbourne	20	9	1	10	76	7	45
8 Bromley	20	7	1	12	69	7	37
9 Horsham	20	6	2	12	144	7	30
10 Crawley	20	5	0	15	323	6	26
11 Cranbrook	20	4	0	16	277	6	22
12 Dartfordians	20	2	1	17	509	2	12

SATURDAY'S FIXTURES

LONDON 1 SOUTH: Tonbridge Juddians v Haywards Heath; Beckenham v Tonbridge Wells

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST: Brighton v Sevenoaks

LONDON 3 SOUTH EAST: Park House v Cranbrook

Ransom eyes world stage after Grand Slam success

By STEVE TERVET

BEN Ransom is targeting world domination with England's under-20s after helping them complete the Six Nations Grand Slam with victory in Ireland last week.

The former Tonbridge schoolboy started all five games as England swept to the title in his first season with the squad after stepping up from the under-18 age group.

Ransom, 19, played at full-back as England kicked off their campaign with a 26-20 win over Wales in February, and he never looked back as their winning streak gathered momentum.

After three wins on home soil, the under-20s prevailed where their senior counterparts went on to fail, knocking over Ireland in their final game by a crushing margin of 46-15.

Ransom said: "From the start of the season, we wanted to win it, but we took one game at a time. To win it in Dublin, and the way we did it, was fantastic.

"I started all the games, the coach kept faith with me and I think I played alright. I made a couple of mistakes against Ireland, but I kept my consistency and I think the team know what I'm going to give."

In route to the Grand Slam, the under-20s were given the opportunity to train with Martin Johnson's senior side and Ransom looked back on the sessions with pride.

Having worked his way into the first-team reckoning at Premiership side Saracens, he may not have been star-struck by the big names on show, but admitted the experience had still been slightly surreal.

He said: "I spoke to [David] Strettle, who I know from Sarries, and it was really good sitting down for breakfast with the likes of Jonny Wilkinson.

VICTORIOUS:
Ben Ransom helped England to the Grand Slam with a last day win in Ireland



"It was good fun, training and playing in Wales and Ireland, getting out of England and it was good to see how the England side work in training.

"The hotel they stayed in was nice, they've got great recovery facilities and the amount of support staff they have is amazing."

Club commitments at Saracens now take precedence for Ransom, but he already has one eye on renewing acquaintances with his England team-mates at this summer's IRB Junior World Championship.

The 12-team tournament takes place in

Italy from June 10-26 and Ransom will be aiming to help England win their first world title since the previous competitions, at under-19 and under-21 level, were abolished in 2007.

"It's the first time I've won a Grand Slam with England and hopefully there's more to come," he said. "There's a lot of confidence in this side and we want to take that through to the World Cup. There are some tough teams there, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, but we go into every game thinking we can win it."

The Slade gets ready for a title party

TONBRIDGE Juddians will clinch promotion and their third consecutive title if they beat Haywards Heath at The Slade on Saturday.

TJs go into the game with a 13-point lead over their nearest rivals, London Irish Amateur, and victory against Heath will ensure the side from the capital can't catch them.

The team are at near full strength for the London 1 South fixture, although Charlie Harding could be rested.

"Charlie's about 85 per cent fit, so we've got to weigh up whether or not it's worth risking him with our Kent Cup semi-final [April 2] coming up," coach Peter Dankert said.

TJs won 40-11 at Haywards Heath earlier in the season, but the outcome hung in the balance for more than an hour.

"It was only in the last five or 10 minutes that we really got away from them," Dankert said. "It was a very cold and wet day and I think looking at the sunshine we've had this week, it's going to be a very different sort of game. It will be more open, which will suit both teams."

Haywards Heath have little to play for, being unable to finish higher than fourth, but Dankert says they are unlikely to roll over on Saturday.

"They're going to be looking to hold their squad together for next season so they're not about to want to start losing games now," he said. "Their second row are excellent and they've also got very good line-out jumpers so



DETERMINED: Tonbridge Juddians can be crowned champions with victory this weekend

that's what we'll have to look out for."

However, if TJs prevail as expected, Dankert feels that winning the title this year will be a far greater achievement than their previous two championships, even though they lost a game for the first time in three seasons.

"It's definitely been tougher this year," he

said. "You had Chichester, London Irish, Beckenham and Haywards Heath who all put together squads with an aim to winning the league. We've had hard games every week and we've had one slip. We haven't always played at our best, but we've ground out the results and in the last few weeks we've really started to play some of our best rugby."



CHAMPIONS:
Sevenoaks'
Katy Barnett
and Sophie
Crosley, right

Sevenoaks eye top tier to cap off title-winning year

By STEVE TERVET

SEVENOAKS are on the verge of promotion to the top tier of women's hockey after wrapping up the Conference East title with victory at Harleston Magpies.

Travelling to Norfolk last Sunday without key defender Fiona Harland, Oaks faced a Magpies side flying high on the back of seven successive wins and they were forced to withstand heavy pressure in the opening stages.

However, a second-half strike by Heather Batten secured Sevenoaks the league championship with a week to spare, 12 months after goal-difference consigned them to the runners-up spot behind Ipswich.

Oaks manager Christine Crosley said: "Harleston hadn't dropped a point since Christmas so they've been the strongest side in the division since then. For 20 minutes, we were under the cosh, but we kept our discipline and gradually got more into the game.

"It's a long way to go and they're a physical,



well-organised side. However, we always knew we had another chance this weekend against Cambridge, weaker opposition on paper. Perhaps that took a little pressure off and meant we actually played with more freedom."

Winning the league only fulfils part one of the equation for Sevenoaks, as they must now progress through the end-of-season play-offs in order to join the country's elite in the Premier Division.

A three-day competition over the bank holiday weekend of April 30 will determine their

fate, with only one from four sides prevailing.

Crosley admitted the dream of Premier Division hockey was still some distance away, but insisted the stringent promotion criteria would ultimately test her side's true quality.

"We're not familiar with any of the teams, so we can't really say what the play-off standard is," she said. "The recognised thinking is that Conference East is the hardest division, but Ipswich came out of that last season and didn't get through the play-offs."

"There are only 10 teams in the Premier Division so it's hard to come up with alternatives. To have three teams coming down would be quite a big ask and we're okay with it. If you're not strong enough to get through the play-offs, you're not strong enough to play in the Premier Division because that is a considerable step up."

Meanwhile, the mood at the club was tempered by another defeat for the men, which means their relegation from the National Leagues is all but mathematically sealed.

Thrashed 5-1 by Harleston, Oaks are three points adrift at the bottom of Conference East with St Albans boasting a superior goal-difference going into the last game of the season.

The Nevill set to lose Twenty20

THIS summer's Twenty20 fixture at The Nevill could be Kent's last in Tunbridge Wells for some time after England and Wales Cricket Board bosses opted to reduce the number of fixtures from 2012.

From next season, Kent's 20-over programme will be cut from 16 games to 10, meaning the county will play only five home fixtures, as opposed to eight this summer.

With the club having invested in floodlights as part of the £8.2 million redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground, a reduced fixture list is likely to see all Twenty20 home games played at Canterbury from next season.

It will come as a blow to the county's west Kent supporters, with a crowd of more than 5,000 attending last summer's game against Sussex, although The Nevill will still host a county championship match as part of the popular Tunbridge Wells Festival.

At an ECB board meeting on Tuesday it was agreed that counties would be recompensed for the reduction in one-day cricket, but Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford couldn't hide his frustration at the decision.

He said: "I am disappointed with this outcome. Twenty20 represents the best chance for the county game to generate significant revenues from cricket. At a time when there is considerable financial pressure on all counties,



POPULAR: More than 5,000 people watched Kent's Twenty20 game at Tunbridge Wells

reducing the number of Twenty20 matches seems a greatly missed opportunity.

"As a county we look forward to hearing details of the 'package of financial measures' that will address the impact of this decision."

While Twenty20 cricket has been reduced,



Pictures: ADY KERRY

fears the county championship would also be hit proved unfounded as the ECB chose to keep the current two division system with 16 games a season.

A decision has yet to be reached on the programme for the Clydesdale Bank 40.



PICTURE: BRUCE ELLIOTT

OUT: Iain Bartley (blue) is unavailable

Skipper out for Beckenham trip

TUNBRIDGE Wells will have to travel to Beckenham for Saturday's London 1 South game without the services of influential captain Iain Bartley.

The Wells skipper has been a key figure in the side's improved performances in the past month, but misses the fixture due to work commitments.

Chairman Roger Clarke admitted the news was a blow: "He's unable to get the time off, which is a shame because in the past four games he's been our player of the match two or three times."

The Wells were due to field an experimental side in their Kent Plate quarter-final at Folkestone last week, but with the London 3 South East side unable to find sufficiently experienced forwards, Jim Scully's side were instead given the weekend off.

Clarke says they would rather have earned their place in the semi-finals.

"We had problems trying to get a date out of them and then, having arranged a side we still didn't know if we were going to play on the Saturday or the Sunday," he said. "I understand from the cup and competitions committee that this is the second year in a row that they've done this, but they decided in the end that they wanted to concentrate on the league, which was a bit surprising."

When the Wells met Saturday's opponents Beckenham at St Marks in November it was the proverbial game of two halves. The Wells twice took the lead with tries from Rob Greig and Tom McMahon to go in tied at 10-10 at half-time, but wilted in the second-half, conceding five tries to end up losing 46-10.

"It was pretty even in the first-half, but we've got to play more consistently and that's what we've been doing in the past few weeks," Clarke said.

Cranbrook hope returning Hancock is the boost they need

PJ ALEXANDER will make his first-team debut for Cranbrook when they travel to Park House on Saturday for a crucial game in their battle against the drop.

Alexander has been promoted from the second-team, while Will Hancock makes a welcome return as hooker after missing several weeks.

"He (Hancock) was a bit of a loss really," Cranbrook manager Kevin McIvor said. "He's one of the best hookers we've had in the club for a long time and he's a superb striker of the ball, so we're hoping he'll give us a bit of an edge."

The Cranes will also bulk up



PICTURE: NICK DUNGAN

CHALLENGE: Cranbrook have got work to do to avoid relegation

their second row for a game they need to win to maximise their chances of avoiding relegation from London 3 South East.

The only way Cranbrook can be

certain of avoiding the drop is to win their final two games while picking up at least one bonus point and hoping that both Horsham and Crawley above

them lose their remaining fixtures. Anything else will leave them sweating on a reprieve from the RFU.

"There are all sorts of permutations," McIvor said. "The RFU may decide not to do a play-off this year in which case only the top teams from Kent 1 and Sussex 1 would come up, but we need to win and hope other results go our way."

"Whatever happens we'll regroup in the close season and either look to go straight back up if we're in Kent 1, or learn from the mistakes that we've made this year and look to finish mid-table or above if we stay in London 3."



ON TARGET: Drew Crush scored Wells' third

Wells crush Holmesdale at Culverden

Tunbridge Wells 3

Holmesdale 0

THREE goals in five second-half minutes allowed Tunbridge Wells to sweep Holmesdale aside and shake off the memory of Saturday's defeat to VCD Athletic.

Missing injured skipper Jason Bourne on Tuesday night, Wells manager Martin Larkin handed Drew Crush a start against a Holmesdale side still smarting from their Kent Senior Trophy semi-final defeat when the two sides met last month.

After a tight first-half at Culverden, there was nothing between the teams, but the game suddenly exploded into life when Keelan Mooney opened the scoring on 61 minutes.

Two minutes later centre-back Andy Boyle got himself on the scoresheet to make it 2-0 and with Holmesdale still catching their breath, Crush netted a third in the 66th-minute.

The result illustrated the Wells' goal-scoring potential from all areas of the field, but they will now be keen to address the inconsistency which has seen them fail to record back-to-back league wins since October.

Tunbridge Wells: Czanner, Crush, Boyle, Spackman, Rich, Pilbeam, Davey, McMath, Ashmore, Cornell, Mooney.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Sutton United	35	21	8	66	30	+36	71
2 Bury Town	35	18	10	59	42	+17	64
3 Billericay Town	35	17	10	50	38	+12	61
4 Tonbridge Angels	34	17	8	55	40	+15	59
5 Lowestoft Town	34	15	13	63	53	+20	58
6 Kingstonian	35	17	7	51	41	+10	58
7 Concord Rangers	35	17	7	59	50	+9	58
8 Carney Island	33	16	9	56	40	+16	57
9 AFC Hornchurch	35	16	9	45	39	+6	57
10 Harrow Borough	34	17	5	62	43	+21	56
11 Cray Wanderers	34	15	8	58	38	+20	53
12 Wealdstone	34	14	9	51	53	+4	51
13 Cheshunt Athletic	35	12	9	44	42	+2	45
14 Margate	35	11	9	45	47	-2	42
15 Hendon	33	11	8	55	63	-8	41
16 Tooting & Mitcham	33	11	8	48	65	-17	41
17 Horsham	35	8	9	18	33	-15	33
18 Hastings United	35	8	9	40	54	-14	32
19 Aveley	33	7	6	20	25	-5	23
20 Folkestone Invicta	33	5	11	27	47	-20	26
21 Croydon Athletic (-3)	34	8	4	22	36	-7	43
22 Maidstone United	35	4	10	21	31	-6	22

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Hythe Town	21	15	3	55	23	32	48
2 Herne Bay	21	14	5	2	44	24	20
3 VCD Athletic	22	10	10	36	23	13	40
4 Erith Town	22	11	6	54	45	25	39
5 Greenwich Borough	23	12	0	48	30	18	36
6 Beckenham Town	21	10	3	8	41	36	5
7 Tonbridge Wells	21	9	5	79	33	16	32
8 Sevenoaks Town	22	9	3	10	32	34	-2
9 Norton Sports	21	7	7	36	40	-4	28
10 Corinthian	22	8	3	11	23	31	-8
11 Erith & Belvedere	20	7	5	8	33	32	1
12 Lordswood	22	7	3	12	29	38	-9
13 Holmesdale	23	5	7	11	25	36	-11
14 Deal Town	22	6	13	27	44	-17	21
15 Fisher	24	6	3	15	27	55	-28
16 Sporting Bengal	25	5	4	16	33	78	-45

SATURDAY'S FIXTURES

(All games kick-off at 3pm unless otherwise stated)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION:

Tonbridge Angels v Wealdstone

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Norton Sports v Tonbridge Wells; Holmesdale v Sevenoaks Town (1pm kick-off)

Angels skipper calls for calm ahead of Judgement day

By STEVE TERVET

RARELY can poetry have been more closely aligned with a Ryman League promotion scrap than when Tonbridge Angels skipper Ben Judge assessed his side's play-off prospects this week.

Just as Rudyard Kipling famously penned the words 'if you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs', so Judge has called for calm at Longmead Stadium as the season-long marathon turns to a sprint finish.

One win in five games has done little to firm up Tonbridge's place in the Ryman Premier top-five, but Judge insists they have enough in the tank to see themselves across the finishing line.

A seasoned campaigner with Croydon Athletic, Crawley Town, Bromley and AFC Wimbledon, the centre-back is well versed on what's needed to achieve promotion.

"I've got four promotions in my career already so I know what it's all about and how to win things," Judge said. "There is pressure



KEEPING CALM: Skipper Ben Judge wants to lead the Angels into Conference South

at this stage, so my job is to calm people down rather than getting them up for games.

"I don't study the league table until you get to this stage of the season, but I looked the other day and it's tight.

"It's going to go down to the last game, that's for certain. We've been stuttering a bit lately, but we've never been on a run of losing three or four games. At this stage, that could put you out of the picture so we need to make sure that doesn't happen."

Judge, who joined the club in September, took over the armband when Scott Kinch was sidelined through injury and manager Tommy Warrilow has kept faith with the 33-year-old ever since.

Describing last weekend's 1-0 defeat at Canvey Island as one of the worst performances of the campaign, Judge knows his leadership skills will be key in each of Angels' remaining eight games.

However, in a week which saw the nation's football public debating the relative merits of John Terry and Rio Ferdinand as England captain, Judge backed the theory that a successful side needs 11 leaders, not one.

He said: "With England, who's captain is not too important and even at our level it's not much different. You're either a shouter and a bawler who gets your team up for it, or you simply lead by example on the pitch.

"Once I cross the white line, I try to help others by talking, I won't go pinning people up against the wall. I lead by example on the pitch, I do things the right way and that gets you the respect of the other players.

"The Dover boys [now at Tonbridge] got promoted and there are other people around the club that have experienced promotion before.

"When I was at Wimbledon, the whole side was full of people that had won things, so it does give you an advantage."



TEAM: England need 11 leaders, not just captain John Terry, says Angels' Ben Judge

Warrilow in the market for new faces

TOMMY Warrilow has promised to shake up his Tonbridge Angels side for the visit of Wealdstone on Saturday after overseeing a dismal defeat at Canvey Island.

The Angels barely registered an effort on goal during the 1-0 reverse in Essex last Saturday, and Warrilow has been scouring the transfer market for fresh additions.

The deadline for new signings is next Thursday, but even if Warrilow is unsuccessful in his attempts to bolster the squad, this weekend's line-up will reflect his dissatisfaction with the Canvey display.

"I'm looking elsewhere and from within," he said. "I've put a few feelers out and if they come off, there will be changes. Some of the players are lucky because I've lost two with

suspension, Lewis Taylor and Danny Walder.

"There are eight games to go and we need to get a couple of wins under our belts. Sometimes, you have to take decisions that aren't going to please everyone, but we need to shuffle it round after Saturday."

Taylor and Walder are missing after both collected two bookings in the reverse fixture at Wealdstone on March 7. The game finished goalless and Warrilow commented afterwards how the Stones' support had affected the contest, but for now he simply wants the Longmead crowd to back their own players.

He said: "We want [the atmosphere] like that for the opposition, but we don't want them to get frustrated with the boys.

"Sometimes, the boys are trying too hard,

but you can't win games as an individual.

"With other teams around us losing, it makes it closer and it's more exciting for the neutrals. For the supporters, it's a nightmare, but I'd rather be involved in the nightmare than not."

One bright spot is the improving fitness of midfielder Lee Browning, who may be able to play some part against Wealdstone after recovering from a knee injury.



RETURN? Lee Browning is on his way back

Injured skipper to miss Norton battle



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

TUNBRIDGE Wells will be missing their inspirational leader this weekend for a game which promises to test the battling qualities of Martin Larkin's squad.

A trip to Norton Sports offers one of the season's most physical tests for the Wells, but skipper Jason Bourne will miss the clash after being sidelined by an ankle injury.

Contrasting performances last term saw the Wells bounce back from a timid 2-1 reverse at Culverden to overcome Norton 3-1 in the reverse fixture, and

Larkin is keen for his players to exhibit their tougher side again.

"They've got very good players and a system that works," the Wells boss said. "We need to make sure we match their intensity and aggression and if we can do that, our quality will come through."

"In previous games, we've been bullied a little bit. We've got big players and we need to use our power in the right areas and provide the platform for Keelan [Mooney] and Hooley [Carl Cornell] to go and play."

The game at Norton gets under

way at 3pm, clashing with England's European Championship qualifier in Wales, but Larkin dismissed claims his side had simply refused to bring the kick-off forward.

"We can't get there any earlier," he explained. "They wanted the game to kick-off at 1pm, but that would have meant an 11.30am meet. Brad [Sandeman] is a postman and lots of the lads work on Saturday mornings, so we would have been missing four or five players and our assistant manager."

By STEVE TERVET

ONE of the shock signings of the motorsport pre-season took place this week when Tom Onslow-Cole signed for Kent team AmD Milltek Racing in the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

Shaun Hollamby, the team principal, revealed AmD had beaten three other teams to the signature of Onslow-Cole, who finished fourth in the BTCC last season.

For Pembury-born Hollamby, last year's campaign marked a debut in the iconic series and the 44-year-old said Onslow-Cole, who will replace him as the team's driver, would open up a whole new world of possibilities.

He said: "It's a dream come true and now the dream's a reality because we've got a driver who's used to winning races. Tom wants to win and he's only come here because he thinks he can win races."

"It might take us a few races to get up to speed, but the package is vastly improved from last year."

"There were three other teams talking to him and it was a case of who offered him the best package. He really liked that we were going to build the team around him because he's used to playing second fiddle. If he says jump, we'll jump – we want him to win races."

Onslow-Cole picked up wins at Brands Hatch, Oulton Park, Silverstone and Donington Park last season and his arrival should fire AmD up the standings when the new season starts at Brands next Sunday.

With so little time to prepare, Hollamby is geared up for a hectic week of testing and tinkering, but admitted he wouldn't swap his position for the world.

He said: "It's come together a bit late and we'll not be able to hit the ground running as we were hoping, but we are starting up the new engine this week."

"It's been incredible, a life-changing experience. If you'd said to me a year-and-a-half ago that we'd be running a car in the BTCC I'd have laughed you out of town."

"This year, we have one of the top-10 touring car drivers in the world in a car running from our workshop."

"Drivers are quite highly strung and they want things done 'now' but Tom is competitive to the nth degree and that will push the whole team along. It makes it a more successful working environment."

While Onslow-Cole will be keen to maintain

ON BOARD: Tom Onslow-Cole shakes hands with AmD Milltek owner Shaun Hollamby (right)



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

WAITING: Rob Quinn faces suspension
Sevenoaks await Quinn ban news

SEVENOAKS Town are waiting to see if Rob Quinn will be suspended for this weekend's trip to Holmesdale, after the player-coach was sent off for foul and abusive language during their defeat at Lordswood last Saturday.

Quinn had already been dismissed against the same opponents last month at Greatness Park, but his manager, Keith Levett, said he could understand the former Crystal Palace player's exasperation during the 2-1 defeat.

"Obviously he gets frustrated," Levett said. "He's coming towards the end of his career and he's probably not the player he was in terms of running, but he's still good."

"I think his frustration is not so much with the decisions because everyone makes mistakes, but with the way the referees are at this level."

Levett said he had warned his players about dissent before the Lordswood game, only to lose his own temper with officials.

"The problem is that the referees don't have any rapport with us at this level and we're lumbered with them," he said.

"The frustration just mounted and I ended up swearing at him which I shouldn't have done, but I just wish he'd acknowledged me; I wish he'd told me to shut up. Instead they just ignore you."

Sevenoaks, who were due to host Erith Town at Greatness Park on Wednesday night, hope to have Danny Lye and Richard Carty available for Saturday's game, which kicks-off at 1pm to avoid clashing with England's World Cup qualifier with Wales.

Hollamby pulls off shock with a key signing

his reputation as one of the championship's front-runners, Hollamby's focus is slightly more measured.

"The main thing is that there are 30 races

and they all score points so we have to keep finishing races," he said. "Our job is to keep the car finishing and Tom's job is to make the car go as quickly as possible."



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Mat Jackson (above) and Liam Griffin have teamed up at Motorbase

Motorbase rule out third car

MOTORBASE Performance have scrapped plans to sign a third driver ahead of the new British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) season, which starts next weekend.

The Wrotham-based team, who will compete as Airwaves Racing in the series, had hoped to run a third car alongside those driven by Mat Jackson and Liam Griffin.

Owner David Bartum confirmed he had been keen to sign Tom Onslow-Cole, who joined rival team AmD Milltek Racing this week, but said there was now no time to bring in an alternative before the first race at Brands Hatch on Sunday, April 3.

"We're not going to bother with that," he said. "We had nothing in place from the driver's point of view, so we're ready to get going with the two drivers we've got."

"We'd been interested in Tom, but his financial

situation was not where it needed to be. I like Tom, I wish him good luck and he would have been a good addition to the team, but these things can only be done if there's strong financial backing."

"Time was against us on this occasion, but don't rule out seeing a third touring car driver at some stage [this season]."

As the BTCC roars into action, Motorbase will also be heavily involved in its support championship, the Porsche Carrera Cup GB.

Their intention to dominate was further underlined this week as Daniele Perfetti became the fifth driver to commit himself to Motorbase for the start of the new campaign.

The 36-year-old arrives for his first season's racing in the UK, but so impressive have his times been in testing, Bartrum has entered him for the stronger pro-am1 class.

Webb aims for top-15 spot

THERE were mixed fortunes for Tunbridge Wells rider Danny Webb as the new MotoGP season kicked off in Qatar last weekend.

Webb (pictured), competing for Mahindra Racing in the 125cc World Championship, struggled to cope with the humid conditions and qualified 23rd at the Losail International Circuit.

On race day, the 20-year-old made a flying start and quickly climbed six places as he began to settle into his rhythm at the start of the 18-lap contest.

As the riders began to string out, Webb picked up four more places, but crossed the



line in 16th, narrowly missing the points in Mahindra's MotoGP debut.

"We struggled with everything in qualifying, nothing seemed to go right," he said. "It's going to be difficult with a new bike and we're not going to do it straight off, so maybe it'll take a while to get the pace of the bike."

"Working with new people, you have to learn the way they work and vice-versa. If we can get into the top-15 of the championship this season, that'd be a good result."

Webb and Mahindra are back in action next weekend at the Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez.

Conway set for track return

MIKE Conway will race this weekend for the first time since his 220mph horror smash as he begins his second IndyCar Series at the Honda Grand Prix of St Petersburg.

The 27-year-old made headlines around the world when he spectacularly crashed out during last season's Indianapolis 500, and injuries ruled him out for the rest of the campaign.

Conway (pictured) joined Andretti Autosport in January and is now set to compete for the first time in 10 months at the season's opening race in Florida.

The Sevenoaks driver impressed many prior to his dramatic crash last term and alongside



Danica Patrick, Marco Andretti and Ryan Hunter-Reay, he is looking to challenge for top honours with his new team in 2011.

Qualifying takes place on Saturday, before Conway lines up on the grid for his comeback race the following day.

JUST RELEASED

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- No Artificial Flavours
- No Artificial Preservatives
- Cooked by Hand



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